AN IDOL'S JOB IS TO SHOW PEOPLE DREAMS.

BUT ONCE YOU ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM,

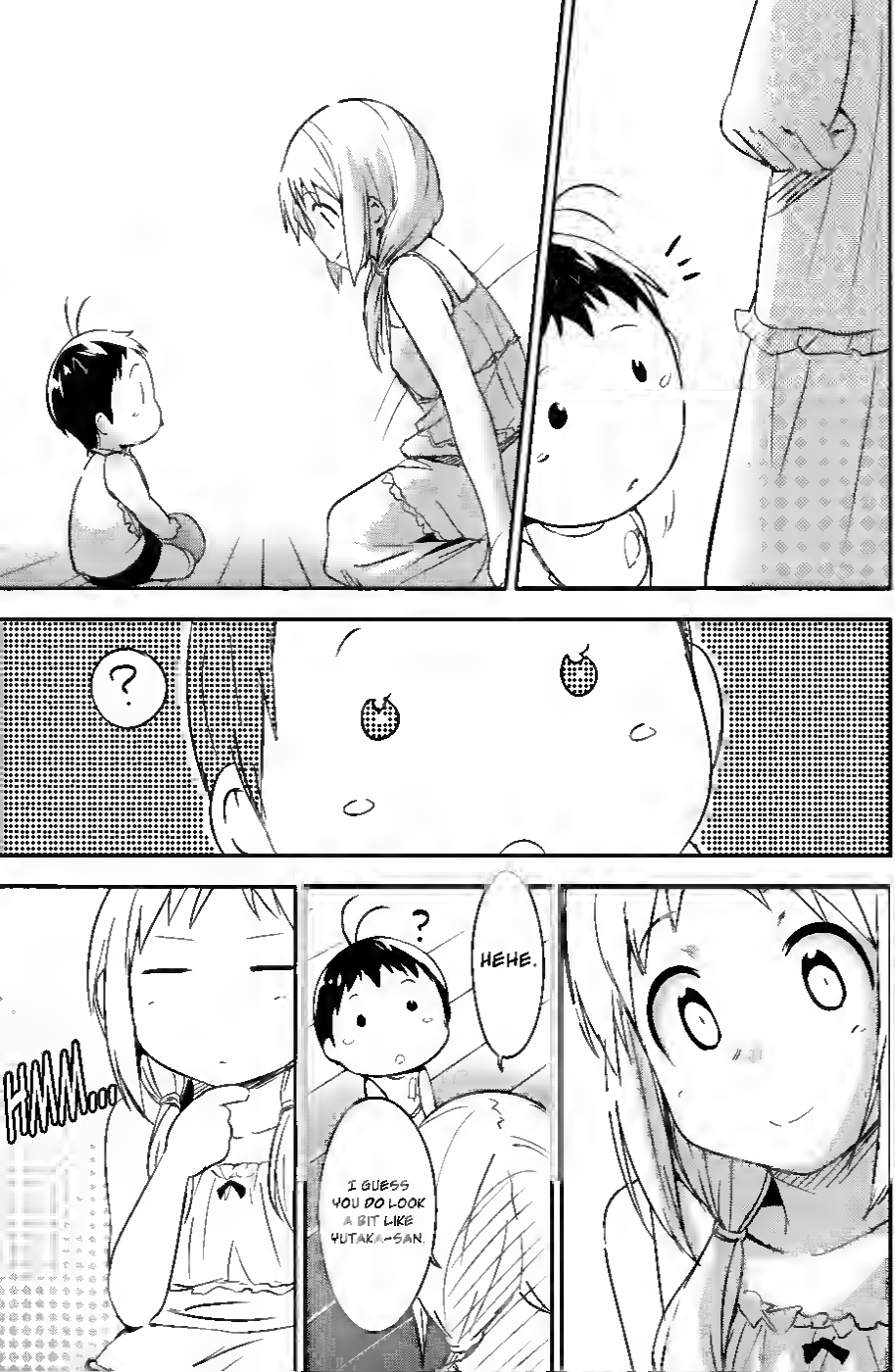
THE ROAD AHEAD CAN BE AN INCREDIBLY LONELY ONE.

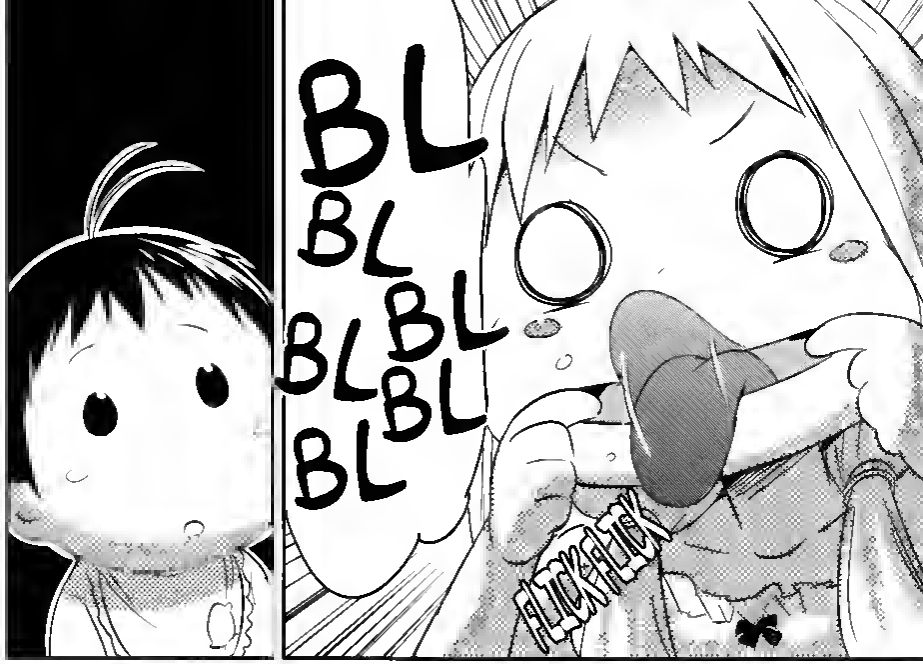
CHAPTER 31
SWEET HOME

PHEW
OTARU SURE IS
A NICE TOWN.

ANYONE HOME?
OH, HARUMI-CHAN!
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU
THANKS FOR COMING BY
I HOPE IT WASN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE IN THIS HEAT.
ACTUALLY, IT'S VERY NICE COMPARED TO TOKYO.
SFX: cicada noises

SHE'S OUT SHOPPING,
BUT SHE'LL BE BACK SOON.
AH, OKAY.
I'LL GET YOU SOME TEA.
TAKE YOUR TIME.
PHEW.


?
HEHE.
I GUESS YOU DO LOOK A BIT LIKE YUTAKA-SAN.
HMMM...


BL
BL
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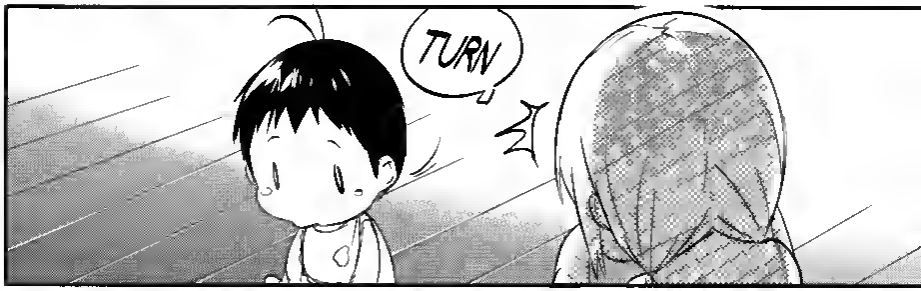
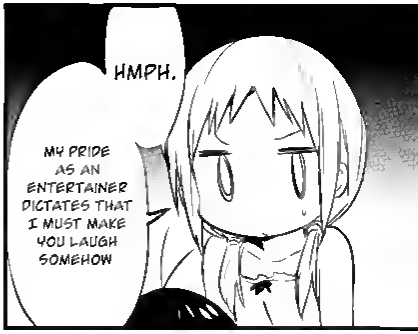
FLICK FLICK


TURN

AWA
WAWA
WAWA
WA

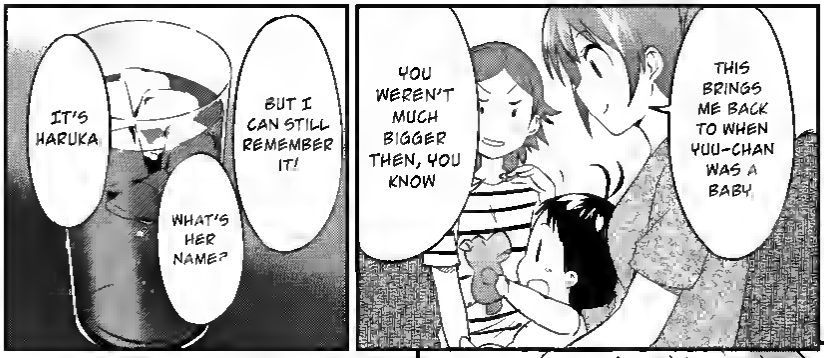

HMPH.
MY PRIDE AS AN ENTERTAINER DICTATES THAT I MUST MAKE YOU LAUGH SOMEHOW

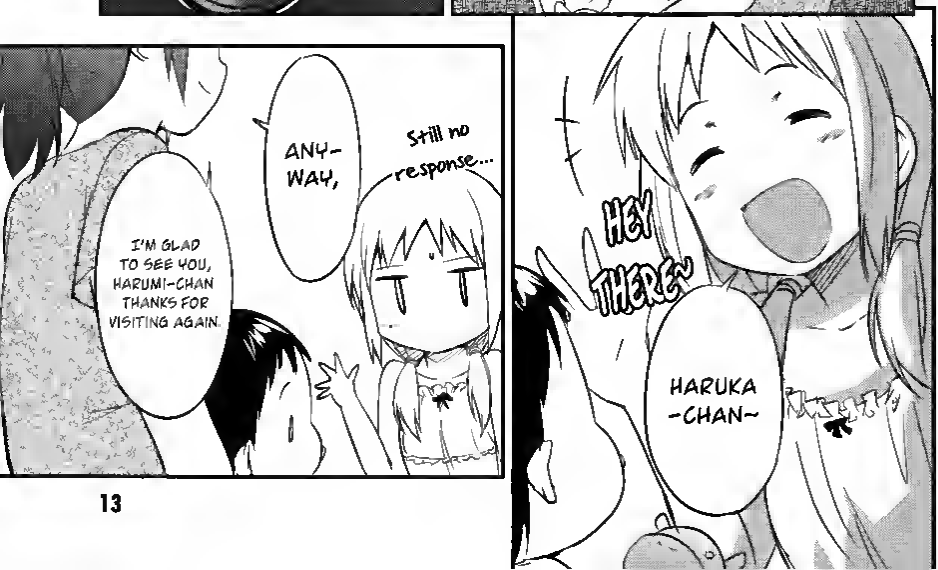
*TN: This Joke first made an appearance in ch9 pg17

HEY, HARUMI -CHAN.
I SEE YOU MADE IT.

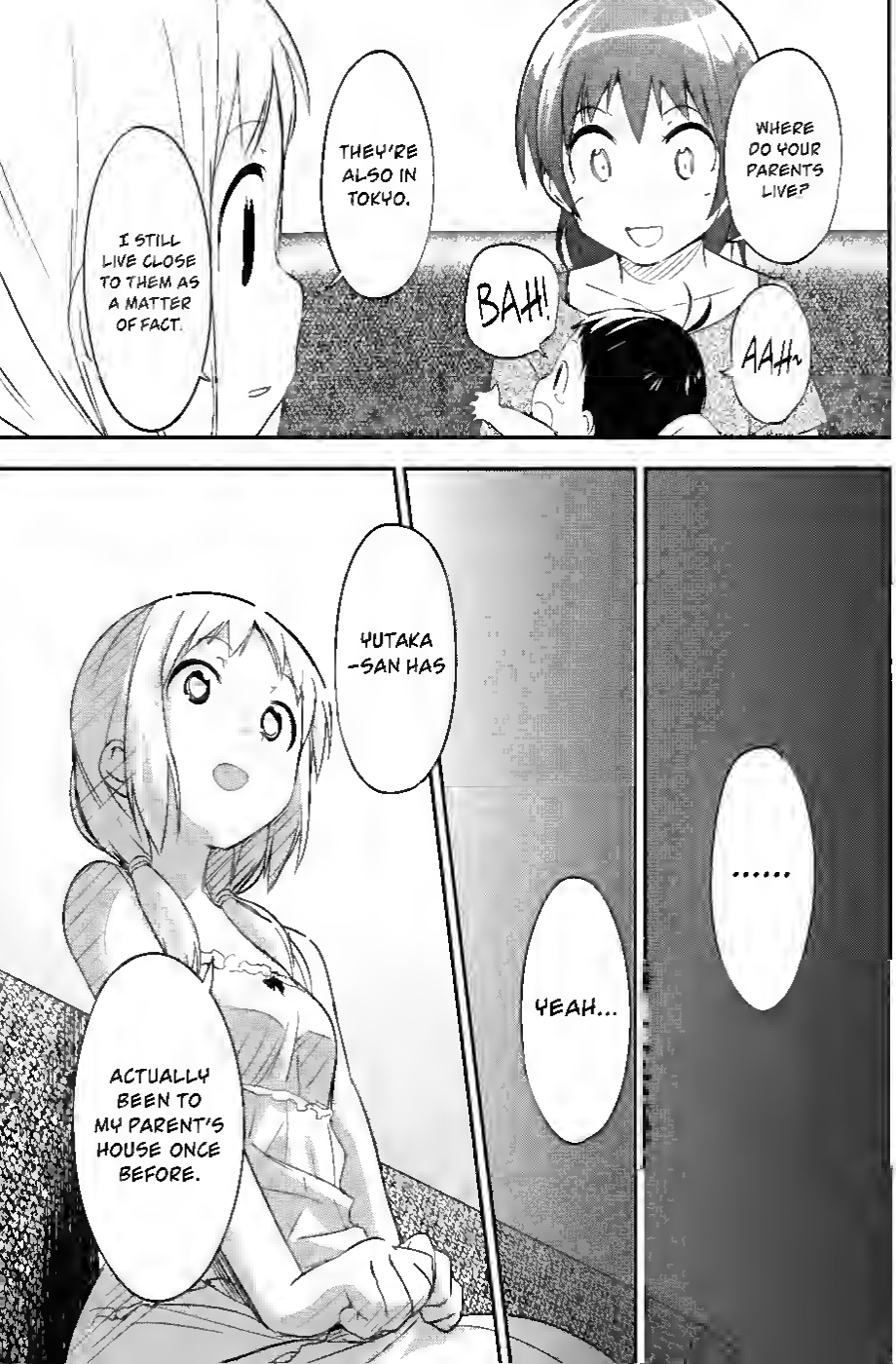
EHEHE HEHE...
IS IT THAT HOT?
WHY ARE YOU TAKING YOUR CLOTHES OFF?

SHE'S EIGHT MONTHS NOW.
SHE CAN EVEN STAND IF SHE HOLDS ONTO STUFF


THIS BRINGS ME BACK TO WHEN YUU-CHAN WAS A BABY
YOU WEREN'T MUCH BIGGER THEN, YOU KNOW
BUT I CAN STILL REMEMBER IT!
IT'S HARUKA
WHAT'S HER NAME?

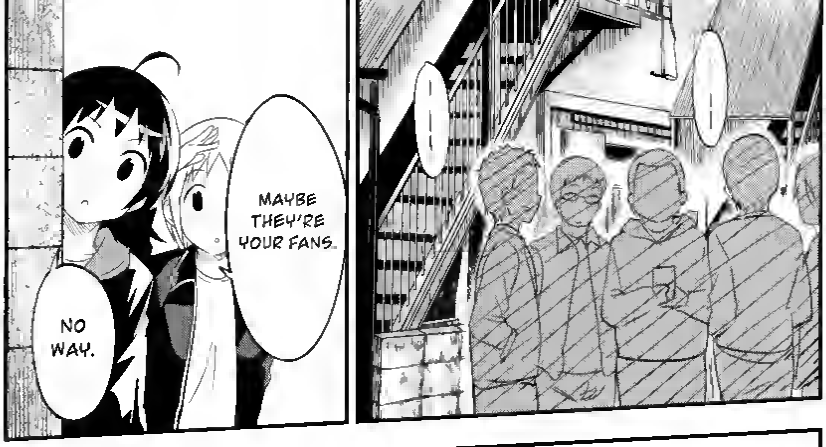

HEY THERE~
HARUKA -CHAN~
ANY-WAY,
Still no response...
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, HARUMI-CHAN THANKS FOR VISITING AGAIN.

I HOPE IT WASN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR AN UP-AND-COMING ENTERTAINER SUCH AS YOURSELF
YOU KNOW, I SAW YOU ON TV THE OTHER DAY ON GOLDEN'S "LAUGHTER CIRCUIT".
Ehehe, I still have a ways to go.
BESIDES, I FAILED THAT SHOW'S AUDITION AT LEAST TEN TIMES BEFORE I FINALLY GOT ON
EVEN ON LATE NIGHT VARIETY SHOWS, IF SOMEONE DOESN'T FOLLOW UP ON MY JOKES, THEY FALL FLAT
じゃん
THE EDITORS CUT OUT A LOT.
PAIN-FULLY SO.
BUT MY FAMILY'S ALWAYS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT AND THEY RECORD EVERY SHOW I'M ON
I KNOW THAT FEELING.


WHERE DO YOUR PARENTS LIVE?
THEY'RE ALSO IN TOKYO.
I STILL LIVE CLOSE TO THEM AS A MATTER OF FACT.
BAH!
AAH.
YUTAKA -SAN HAS
ACTUALLY BEEN TO MY PARENT'S HOUSE ONCE BEFORE.
YEAH...
.....

AND YUTAKA-SAN BECAME THE TALK OF THE TOWN.
A VIDEO OF THE BROADCAST WENT VIRAL.
SHE RELEASED HER SINGLE OVER AGAIN A MONTH AFTER THE COMPETITION AND IT BECAME A SMASH HIT
WITH THAT, THE WORLD ONCE AGAIN TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO YUTAKA-SAN.
LET'S GO TODAY'S THE NATIONAL CELEBRATION FOR THE SINGLE
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD! YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING!

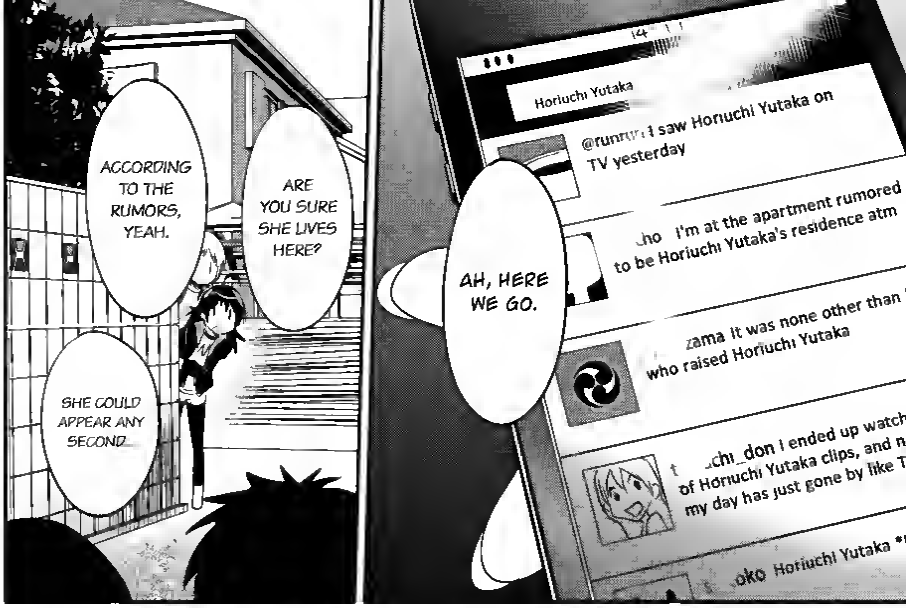
!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE OUT FRONT.

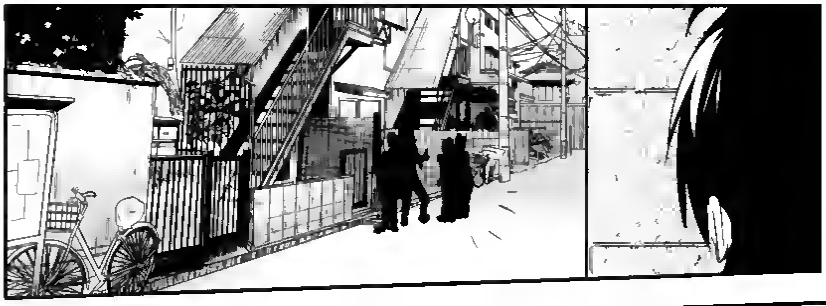

NO WAY.
MAYBE THEY'RE YOUR FANS.

BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER REASON WHY ALL THOSE PEOPLE WOULD BE STANDING THERE.

HOLD ON A SEC. LEMME LOOK UP MY NAME REAL QUICK.

YOUR POPULARITY HAS BEEN ON THE RISE SINCE N:I-1,
SO IT'S NOT SURPRISING TO HAVE PASSIONATE FANS TRYING TO MEET YOU IN PRIVATE.


ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, YEAH.
ARE YOU SURE SHE LIVES HERE?
SHE COULD APPEAR ANY SECOND...
AH, HERE WE GO.
Horiuchi Yutaka
@runrun: I saw Horiuchi Yutaka on TV yesterday
who raised Horiuchi Yutaka
Horiuchi Yutaka



THAT WAS ENTIRELY YOUR DOING.
THE LANDLORD IS ALREADY PRETTY UPSET WITH US AS IT IS AFTER WE SHOT OFF FIREWORKS IN OUR ROOM...

THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD...
IT'LL CREATE A HUGE RUCKUS IF THEY SEE US.
THIS SUCKS. I DON'T THINK WE CAN GO INSIDE OUR APARTMENT NOW.

OH WELL, NOTHING WE CAN DO IT ABOUT NOW. LET'S KILL SOME TIME UNTIL THEY GO AWAY
HOW ABOUT WE HIDE AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE INSTEAD?
AH!
YOUR FANS MIGHT SPOT YOU IF WE HANG AROUND THIS AREA
BESIDES, THEIR HOUSE IS NEARBY
PARENTS HOUSE? YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YUTAKA-SAN I DIDN'T JUST COME INTO BEING FROM INSIDE OF MY APARTMENT, YOU KNOW

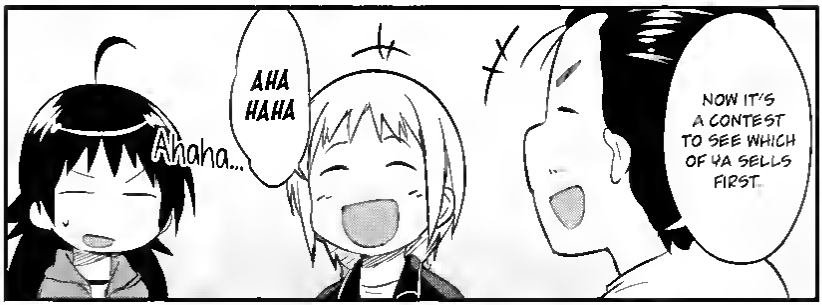
Sign: Tanaka's Restaurant
田中飯店
IT'S OVER THERE.
A CHINESE RESTAURANT?
I HAD NO IDEA
REAL-LY?
WHY DO YOU LIVE BY YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO THEM?
IT ONLY TOOK TEN MINUTES TO GET HERE!

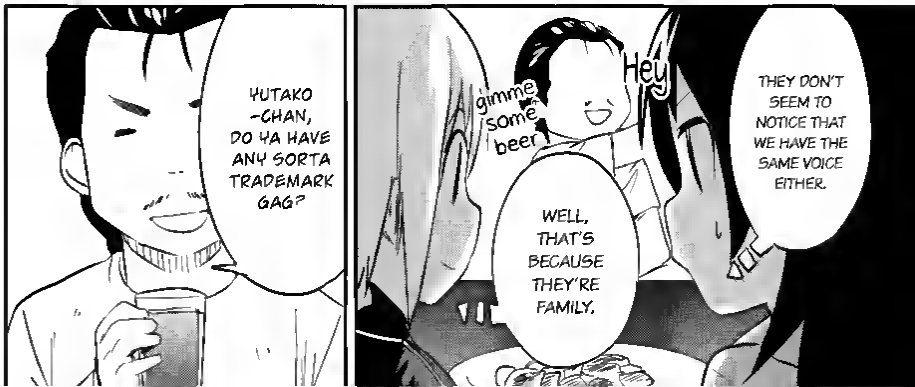
料理
I DIDN'T NOTICE...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER STUFF GOING MISSING THEN COMING BACK?
YOU JUST NEVER NOTICED. I WAS GOING BACK AND FORTH PRETTY OFTEN FOR A BIT.
THESE FOOD SAMPLES ARE REALLY STARTING TO SHOW THEIR AGE...
THE TENSHIN-DON IS TURNING BLACK IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A FORM OF ART AT THIS POINT
DON'T WORRY.
THAT'S NOT ON THE MENU ANYMORE.
I'M HOME~
SO NON-CHALANT!

GYAAAAAA
GASP
GASP
WHEN YER EATIN' SOMETHIN',
EAT IT QUIETLY,
PAY UP QUIETLY,
AND LEAVE QUIETLY.
I HOPE THIS SHITHOLE GOES UNDER!
TCH.
WHO WAS THAT?
OH, HARUMI.
THAT BASTARD WOULDN'T STOP COMPLAININ' ABOUT OUR FOOD,
SO I TOLD 'EM TO BEAT IT IF HE WANTED FOOD WITH NO MSG
NICE ONE, BOSS!
HOW IS THIS QUIET..

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT THIS UNDER CONTROL.
whisper
HEY, WON'T IT BE JUST AS MUCH OF A PROBLEM IF HE FINDS OUT WHO I AM?
whisper
BY THE WAY, WHO'RE YOU?
WH-
WELL, Y'SEE...
THIS IS HORI YUTAKO -CHAN.
SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE AND A FELLOW ENTERTAINER
I'M NOT SURE THIS MAKES ME FEEL ANY BETTER...
SEE?
MAKE YERSELF AT HOME
NICE TO MEETCHA!
AH, WHATEVER
SO YER HARUMI'S FRIEND?
AH...
HAVEN'T I SEEN YER FACE BEFORE?

There's only gyouza...
YES...
AH, SO YA CAME HERE ALL THE WAY FROM HOKKAIDO TO BECOME AN ENTERTAINER


Ahaha...
AHA HAHA
NOW IT'S A CONTEST TO SEE WHICH OF YA SELLS FIRST.


YUTAKO -CHAN, DO YA HAVE ANY SORTA TRADEMARK GAG?
gimme some beer
Hey
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE FAMILY.
THEY DON'T SEEM TO NOTICE THAT WE HAVE THE SAME VOICE EITHER.

HUH?!
AH NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING L-
WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE?!
WHA?!
YOU KNOW, THE ONE YOU ALWAYS DO!!
THAT SUPER FUNNY ONE!!
Y-YOU LITTLE... YOU KNOW YOU HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DO THAT TO YOU!!
ALL RIGHT, HERE GOES, THEN.
GLAD
GLAD
LAKE TITICACA!!!
ONE

.....
.....
WELL..
YA STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN
KEEP AT IT.
I'LL BE ROOTIN' FOR YA
DAMN IT. DAMN IT.
So Lake Titicaca
really is no good...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE GETTING DEPRESSED!!!

I'M FINISHED WITH THE BATH.
ガラッ
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
J-JUST A LITTLE CLEANING...
UNLIKE MY APARTMENT, I HAVE A LOT OF EMBARRASSING STUFF HERE, SO...
Jr High Yearbook
HMM.
SO, WHAT'S THIS?
AH! NO!!

I WENT THROUGH A SHORT PHASE WHERE I WANTED TO BE A MANGA ARTIST....
Kiyoto-kun...
You're such a klutz, Hikaru.
Your intestines are all hanging out
Stop it.
A HAND-CRAFTED GRIMOIRE USED TO CAST SPELLS AFTER I AWOKE AS A SERVANT OF THE DARKNESS!!
THIS?
A COLLECTION OF POEMS I WROTE UNDER THE PREMISE THAT I HAD BEEN AFFLICTED WITH AN INCURABLE DISEASE!
AND THIS?
Cute Memo
CRACK
INTERES-TING...
HAA
HAA

S-SORRY, ALL RIGHT...
PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL!!
THESE ARE VERY SPECIAL MINIDISCS.
AAA-AHHH!!
!
だば
だば
SO, WHAT ARE THEY FOR?
YOU HAVE SO MANY..
THESE ARE RECORDINGS OF MY FAVORITE RADIO PROGRAM "LATE NIGHT EXCITE" HOSTED BY TOUDOU MADOU
THEY'RE PRICELESS! I HAVE EVERY EPISODE IN EXISTENCE HERE
"Late Night Excite"
#310~313
WANT TO LISTEN TO A BIT OF MY FAVORITE EPISODE?
GRIN
NO, THAT'S FINE...
COME ON, WE SHOULD LISTEN TO SOME!!
I WANT TO LISTEN TO SOME.
O-OKAY FINE!

YOU KNOW, ON THE WAY HERE, I HAD TO STOP TO FIND A TOILET. I HAD TO GO SO BAD, I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA EXPLODE.
I'M TELLING YOU, THOSE BOWEL MOVEMENTS WERE UNEARTHLY! BUT IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR YOU TO PICTURE HOW RIDICULOUSLY OVERPOWERING IT WAS.
LET'S SEE... YOU KNOW THAT NEW YEARS BROADCAST THEY DO, I THINK AT THE CHION-IN TEMPLE IN KYOTO?
I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN IT ON TV, BUT ANYWAY, THE MONKS RINGING THAT HUGE BELL WERE THESE HUGE, STRONG-LOOKING GUYS.
THEY HIT THE BELL WITH SUCH GUSTO THAT YOU'D THINK THEY WERE PERFORMING A NEAR THROW FROM JUDO OR SOMETHIN'! THEY'D ALL PULL BACK, RELEASE, AND DONG! THERE'D GO THE BELL.
AND THAT'S HOW BADLY MY BUILD-UP WAS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF MY ANUS!
DAMN POOP!!
ONE!

THAT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE, ACTUALLY. HE'S CERTAINLY INFLUENCED YOUR RADIO TALKS
HEHEHE
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLI-MENT.
I ADMIT HE CAN BE PRETTY BLUNT AND CRAZY,
BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN HE'LL SHED A BIT OF LIGHT ABOUT HIMSELF LIKE
ONE!

"I'M A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING GUY, AND THOSE LISTENING TO THIS ARE ALL GOOD-FOR-NOTHING-PEOPLE.
BUT THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL ALONE BECAUSE OF IT"
MAYBE IT'S NOT THE MOST UPLIFTING IDEA, BUT I THINK HEARING STUFF LIKE THAT IS IMPORTANT
I WANT TO BRING LAUGHTER TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT THE MOST.
I THINK THAT'S THE REASON WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH COMEDY.

THE COAST SHOULD BE CLEAR NOW.
ガラララ
chirp
chirp

田中
TEL 000-xxx
I FEEL BAD LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE.
THEY'RE SLEEPING, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

ALRIGHT..
LET'S GO GET CHANGED,
AND THEN HEAD BACK TO WORK

I KNEW THIS FROM THE START, BUT I THINK I
HAVE A MUCH BETTER UNDER-STANDING OF IT NOW
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE YOUR QUOTE FROM YESTERDAY,
BUT IF CONTINUING MY IDOL ACTIVITIES WILL MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY,
I THINK IT'S WORTH TRYING OUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF WORK
YOU HAVE A LOT MORE WORK COMPARED TO LAST YEAR, HUH?
YEAH, I GUESS
IT STILL ISN'T ANYWHERE CLOSE TO HOW I USED TO BE,
BUT I THINK MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW.

WHAT'S WRONG?
MM~
WHAT A NICE MORNING
THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR PACE THEN...
NOTHING.
LET'S GET BACK TO OUR APARTMENT
REVEALED OUR FUTURES.

UEDA-KUN.
LAST MONTH'S LISTENER RATE FOR "OPERATION AURORA" JUST CAME IN
...!
WHAT THE...
CHAPTER 31 END

CHAPTER 32
Stand up, Stand by me.

It's time for Horiuchi Yutaka Operation Aurora!
Let's get this week's show started.
I, Horiuchi Yutaka, will be your host tonight.
So, how have you all been?

I'm still in the same city, but I decided that it was time to get a bigger place.
As for myself, I moved out of my old apartment last week.
I've gotta tell ya...
Having an auto-locked door is so nice. Really helps me feel safe.
Let me say that one more time... an auto-locked door!!
When finding a new place, I suppose we all have certain things we can't do without.
AHAHA

For me...
!
.....
Anyway, I often sit on the toilet for a while when I'm thinking about stuff...
Actually, why am I saying this? Haha.
The toilet in my last apartment didn't flush very well—
Sure, I care about the floor plan, but the most important thing to me is the feel of the bathroom.
I listen to music too...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO CUT IN...

YUTAKA-CHAN IS SURE ON A ROLL.
SEEMS LIKE SHE'S GOTTEN MORE CONFIDENT WITH HER SPEAKING.
BET IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S GETTING POPULAR AGAIN.
...
YEAH.
Ace
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW MUCH OPERATION AURORA'S LISTENER RATE HAS SKYROCKETED.

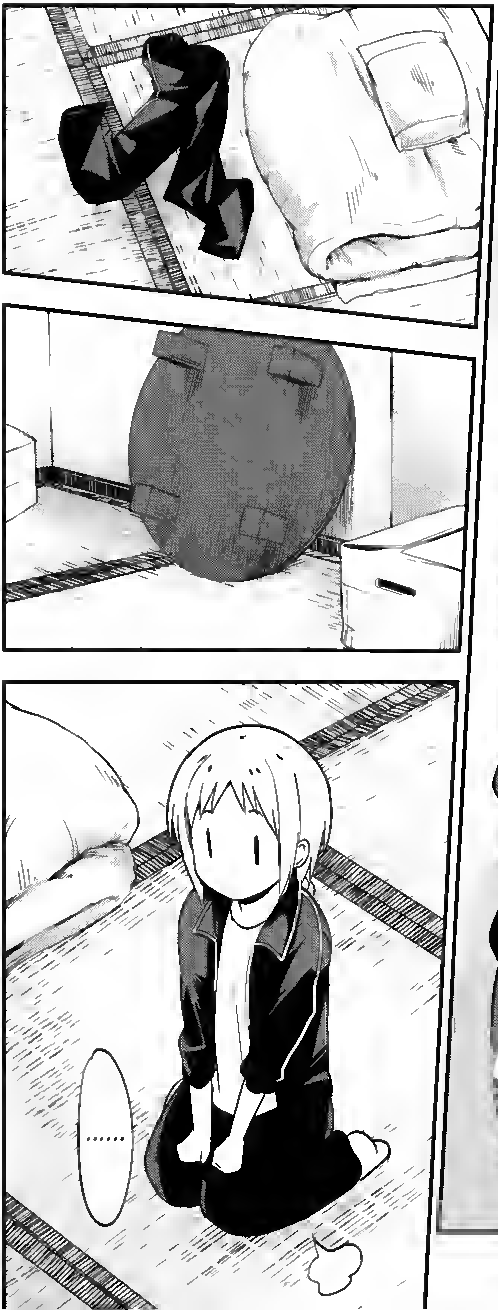
THIS PROGRAM HAD HIGH NUMBERS FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT THE LATEST RISE IN LISTENERS IS COMING FROM ANOTHER SOURCE
EVEN IF YOU TAKE N.I-1 INTO ACCOUNT, THESE NUMBERS DON'T MAKE SENSE
MY GUESS IS THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE BEING DRAWN TO YUTAKA-CHAN'S UNCENSORED RADIO TALKS

HOW-EVER...
THIS LEAVES HARUMI -CHAN IN AN AWKWARD POSITION
IF SHE STARTS THINKING SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO FORCE JOKES FOR THE BROADCAST TO GO WELL,
THEN WE HAVE A PROBLEM...

THE AFTERNOON SUN IS STARTING TO OUTSHINE THE EVENING AURORA
I SUSPECT THAT OPERATION AURORA...
IS NEARING ITS END.

ALRIGHT THEN. G'NIGHT, HARUMI-CHAN.
GOOD NIGHT.
SHUT
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK, YUTAKA-SAN!
YUP.

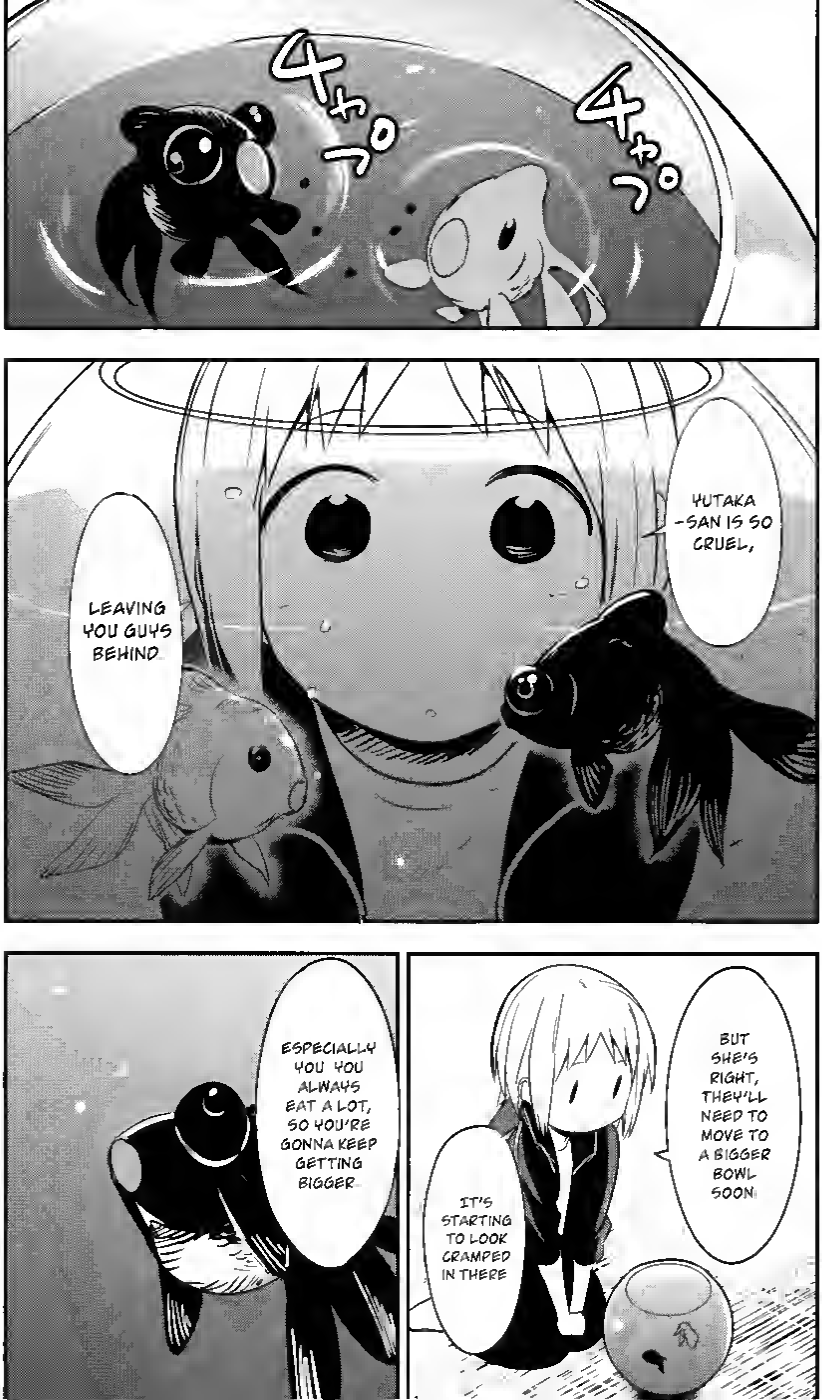
OTSUKA-SAN DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO RENT AN OFFICE TO BETTER MANAGE YUTAKA-SAN'S INCREASING WORKLOAD
LATER, YUTAKA-SAN DECIDED TO MOVE OUT AND RENT A PLACE NEAR THE OFFICE AFTER FANS SHOWED UP AT THE APARTMENT AGAIN.
OKAY.
step
step
I'M HOME...


.....

FLICK

Oh man, it was crazy!!
I had this bad cold, so I ate some ramen with an extra large serving of shims,
but I threw it all up 'cause my stomach was feeling queasy
AHAHA HAHA

*This skit style is a play off the Japanese comedian Sugi-chan.


4ゃつ。
4ゃつ。
YUTAKA -SAN IS SO CRUEL,
LEAVING YOU GUYS BEHIND
ESPECIALLY YOU YOU ALWAYS EAT A LOT, SO YOU'RE GONNA KEEP GETTING BIGGER
BUT SHE'S RIGHT, THEY'LL NEED TO MOVE TO A BIGGER BOWL SOON
IT'S STARTING TO LOOK CRAMPED IN THERE

IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE NICE
H-HEY, I'M NOT LONELY OR ANYTHING!
POPO
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHE NEVER PAID ANY OF THE RENT WHILE SHE WAS HERE.
AND, SHE'S MAKING ME PAY TO REPAIR THIS EVEN THOUGH SHE BROKE IT.
KID-DING...
JUST ...
MAYBE I SHOULD SEND HER A BILL LATER FOR ALL THE RENT SHE OWES ME.

HARUMI -CHAN?
BZZZZZ
BZZZZZ
Ace
thump
HELLO?
.....
thump
?!
SNIFF
...I'm so lonely...
SOB
SNIFF
HELLO?!
YOU STILL THERE?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
H-HARUMI -CHAN?!

I'M NOT SURE...
BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS LONELY
SHE HUNG UP...
WHAT HAPPEN-ED?
GRAB
GRIN
WELL, WELL, WELL~
GO TO HER.
...

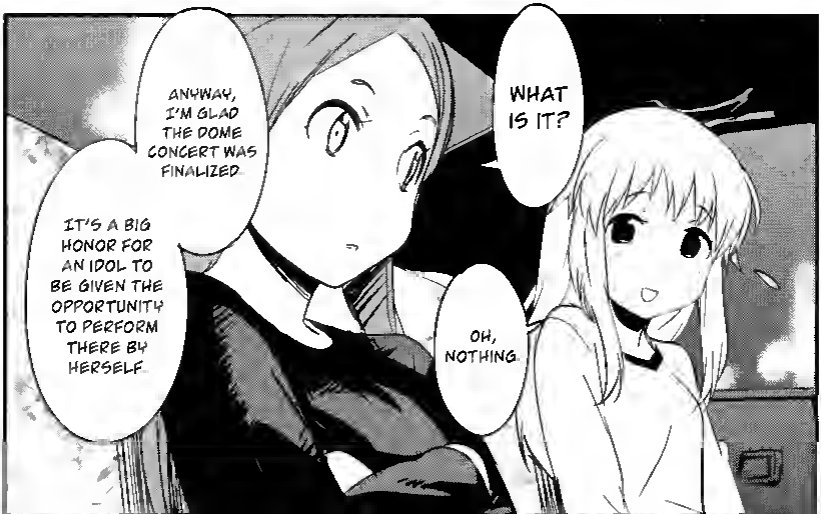
GO TO HER, COMFORT HER,
AND THEN MAKE A WOMAN OUT OF HER!!
TO HARUMI-CHAN OBVIOUSLY!
.....
GO TO HER?
PUUUSH
WHAT?!
I CAN'T JUST BARGE IN ON HER LIKE THAT.
SHE'S ASKING YOU TO. WHY DO YOU THINK SHE'D CALL YOU WHILE SHE WAS CRYING?! SHE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!
BUT STILL...
YOU PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A MAN...
UEDA-KUN, WE'RE GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
'KAY.
BUT I STILL HAVE TO WRITE UP TOMORROW'S SCRIPT...
IF YOU STAY UP TONIGHT, I'M SURE YOU CAN PUMP OUT SOMETHING DECENT
ズル
ズル

トリウォーン!!
Since when did you switch to a BMW?
ALL RIGHT, GET ON.
ドゥ
ドゥ
ドゥ
1300R
しっか
LIKE THIS?
.....
HOLD ON TIGHT.
MY DRIVING IS PRETTY ROUGH.

オオオオオ
WHERE'D THAT SHY ATTITUDE OF YOURS GO? OR AM I NOT FEMININE ENOUGH FOR YOU?
HUH? WHAT?
ARGH, NEVER MIND!! LET'S GO!!
ドドド

EEEEEEEEEK
オオオオ

?


WHAT IS IT?
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD THE DOME CONCERT WAS FINALIZED
IT'S A BIG HONOR FOR AN IDOL TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM THERE BY HERSELF
OH, NOTHING

HMM.
THIS DEFINITELY PROVES THAT YOU WERE THE WINNER OF N.I-1.
THE CONTEST DOESN'T CARRY THAT MUCH WEIGHT
So what do we do with this?
Miho-san said we could just throw it away.
EVEN-TUALLY SHE'LL...
WAIT, NO...
SHE'S ALREADY CLOSING IN ON ME.
?

I WON'T GIVE UP THE MOUND SO EASILY.
BUT... HEHE...

YUTAKA~
THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULE TOM-
UH...
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR?
I FEEL CALMER DOWN HERE
YOU'RE LONELY, AREN'T YOU?
JUST GO SEE HER NO REASON TO HOLD BACK
I'M FINE!

I'LL... SEE HER NEXT WEEK ANYWAY.
OKAY, GET IT DONE.
UHM.
WHAT EXACTLY AM I GETTING DONE...?
HRM...

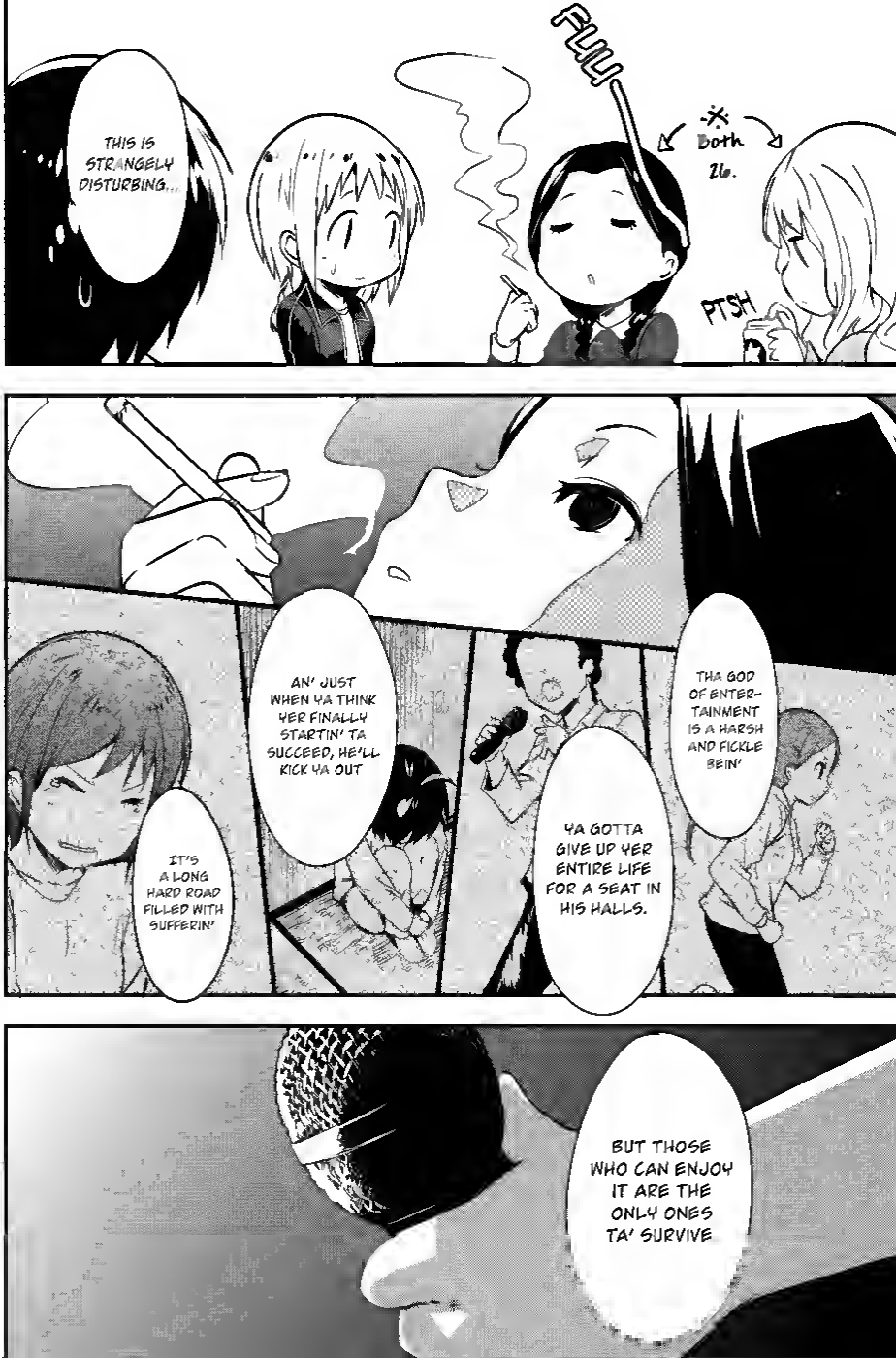
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD BE VISITING A GIRL'S HOUSE AT THIS HOUR...
NOW WHAT...
BESIDES, SHE'S THE ONE WHO CALLED ME, WHICH MEANS SHE MUST TRUST ME TO SOME EXTENT, SO THERE'S NO REASON TO BE HAVING ALL THESE WEIRD CONCERNS, WHICH IN TURN MEANS... AND WHAT AM I EVEN SAYING?
ぶつ
ぶつ
I'M JUST GOING TO HELP A GIRL WHO SEEMS TO BE IN TROUBLE
NO WE'RE JUST COWORKERS, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT
That voice?
COMING~
KNOCK KNOCK
?

OH, WHO'S THIS STRAPPIN' YOUNG MAN?
HE A FRIEND OF YERS?
AH, YES.
THIS IS TSUDA-SAN HE'S A PROJECT MANAGER AT THE RADIO STATION
AH, SO YER A WRITER.
PLEASED TA' MEET-CHA
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER YOU CAME BECAUSE I CALLED, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH.
AFTER THAT, I CALLED THESE TWO AND THEY CAME RUSHING OVER.
ANYWAY, PLEASE COME IN.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
Where's the stove! I asked you to take out?
NO I JUST THOUGHT THAT YOU ONLY... YEAH, NEVER MIND.

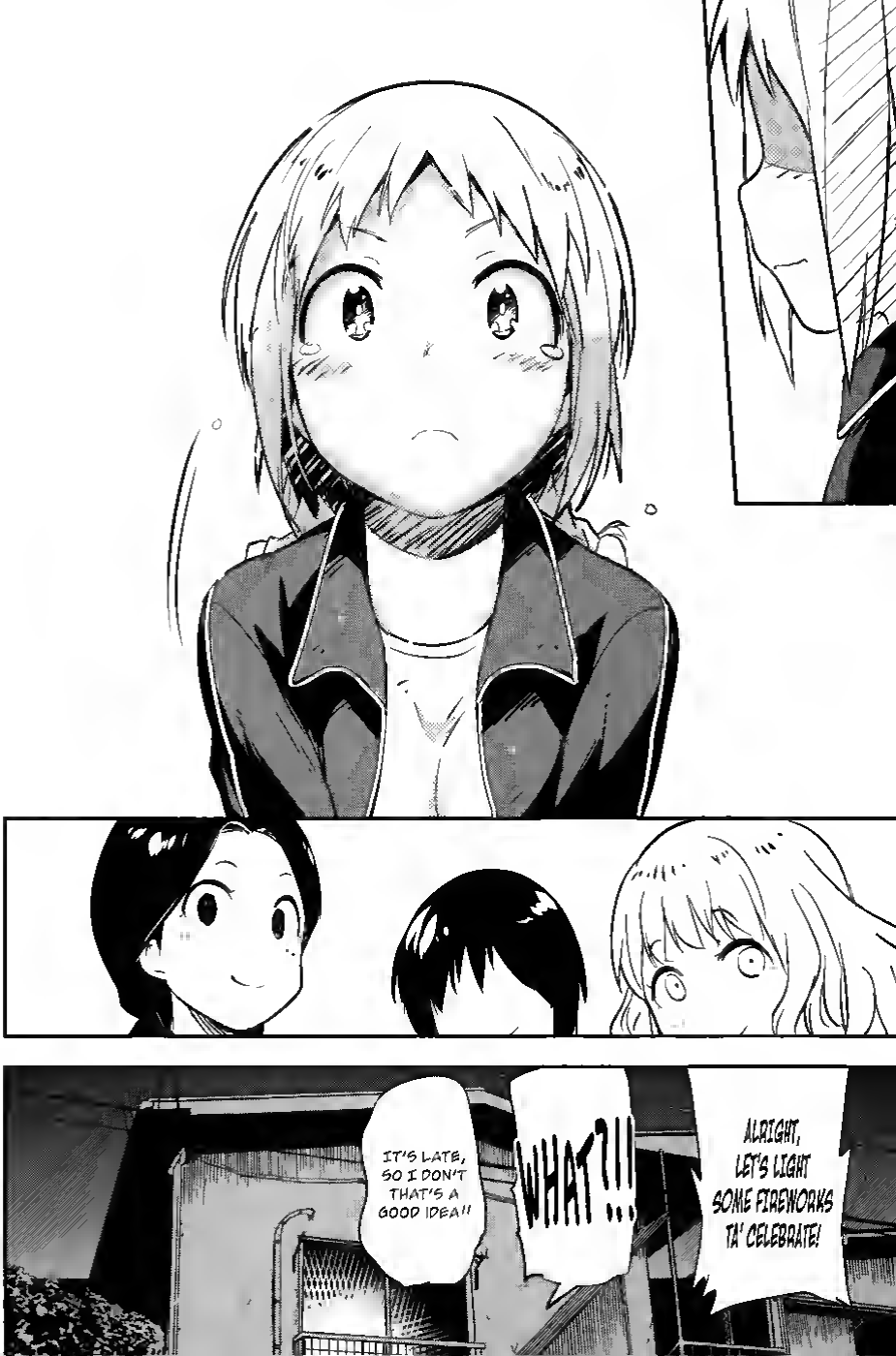
AH, I SEE...
SO YA GUYS WERE PULLIN' THAT KINDA STUNT...
I HAD NO CLUE.
Whoever put tha mochi in did it too soon
SO...

HUH?
WHATCHA WANNA DO NOW?
N-NOT EXACTLY...
NO...
Are ya Harum-chans... ya know?
DO YA WANT HER TO COME BACK?
110
4
BUT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS...
THAT YER MIS-INTERPRETIN' WHAT YER LONELINESS MEANS
SO YOU CAME TO US ABOUT THIS INSTEAD OF YUTAKA-CHAN, RIGHT?
WELL, THERE'S DEFINITELY NOTHING WRONG WITH BEIN' LONELY. YA KNOW THINGS WON'T BE SOLVED SO EASILY WITH HER,
munch
munch

BOTH AN IDOL AN' A COMEDIAN'S JOB IS TA' ENTERTAIN
THOSE WHO'RE GOOD AT IT ARE GONNA MOVE UP FASTER
EH, BUT WE ALL KNEW THAT.
NO MATTER HOW CLOSE YA ARE TO SOMEONE, HER FACE'LL BE DIFFERENT
THINGS'LL EVENTUALLY CHANGE 'TWEEN THE TWO OF YA
BUT THA THING IS
YA CAN'T GO COMPARIN' HER FRIEND'S SUCCESS WITH HER OWN SITUATION
THOUGH I GUESS I CAN SEE WHY HER HAVIN' TROUBLES COMIN' TA' TERMS WITH A NEW REALITY
Wanna make rice porridge outta tha leftovers?
AH, GO AHEAD
MIND IF I SMOKE?
tap tap
CLICK


THIS IS STRANGELY DISTURBING...
FUU
Both 26.
PTSH
IT'S A LONG HARD ROAD FILLED WITH SUFFERIN'
AN' JUST WHEN YA THINK YER FINALLY STARTIN' TA SUCCEED, HE'LL KICK YA OUT
YA GOTTA GIVE UP YER ENTIRE LIFE FOR A SEAT IN HIS HALLS.
THA GOD OF ENTER-TAINMENT IS A HARSH AND FICKLE BEIN'
BUT THOSE WHO CAN ENJOY IT ARE THE ONLY ONES TA' SURVIVE

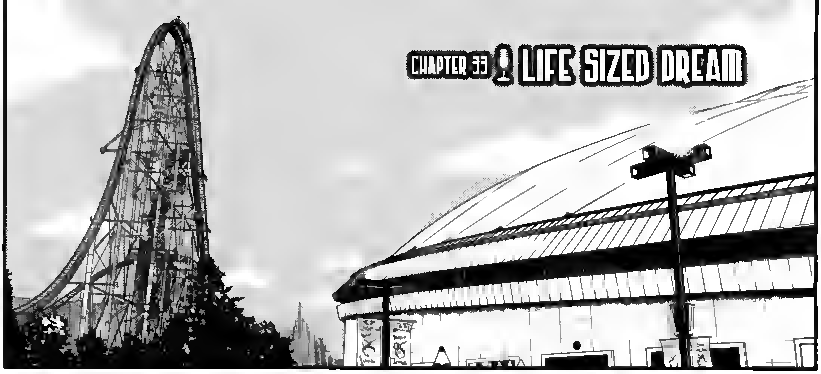
tap
tap
ANYWAY, WHAT I'M TRYIN' TA' SAY IS...
IF YER SAYIN' YER LONELY CAUSE YA THINK SHE LEFT YA BEHIND, YER WRONG
YA SHOULD TAKE PRIDE
IN THA FACT THAT YER THE BEST FRIEND OF THE POPULAR IDOL HORIUCHI YUTAKA.
YA SHOULD START WALKIN' DOWN YER OWN PATH
WELL THEN...
Shake Shake
OR WOULD YA RATHER HER SEE YA ALL SNOTTY 'N BLUBBERY?

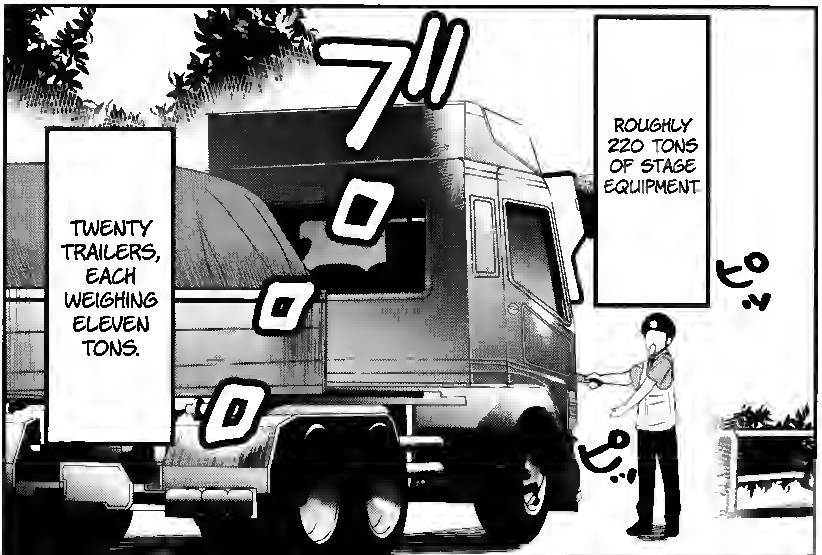

ALRIGHT, LET'S LIGHT SOME FIREWORKS TA' CELEBRATE!
WHAT?!!
IT'S LATE, SO I DON'T THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!!

OH, YOU BROUGHT IT?
Ehehe.
I CAN'T SLEEP WHEN I DON'T HAVE MY PILLOW.
MM. THANKS.

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH WE CAN NO LONGER SEE EACH OTHER,
MKAY~
IT'S TIME TO GO OVER TODAY'S MATERIAL.
WE'VE JUST BEGUN WALKING DOWN OUR OWN PATHS.

CHAPTER 32 END



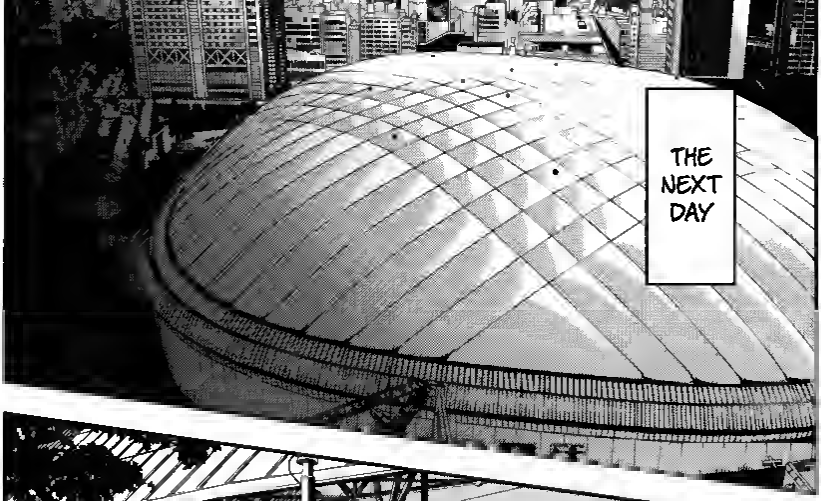

ROUGHLY 220 TONS OF STAGE EQUIPMENT
ピッ
TWENTY TRAILERS, EACH WEIGHING ELEVEN TONS.
ブロロロ

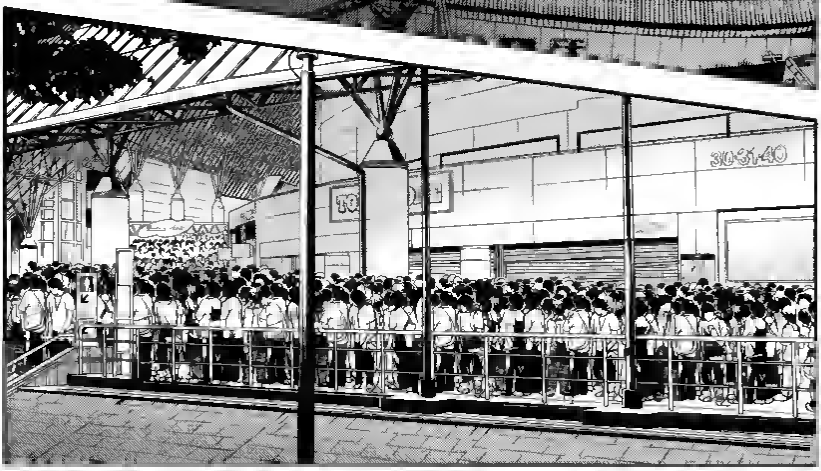
CHAPTER 33
LIFE SIZED DREAM
I'M WITH YOU
ALL OF WHICH IS BEING BROUGHT IN JUST FOR YUTAKA-SAN'S CONCERT.

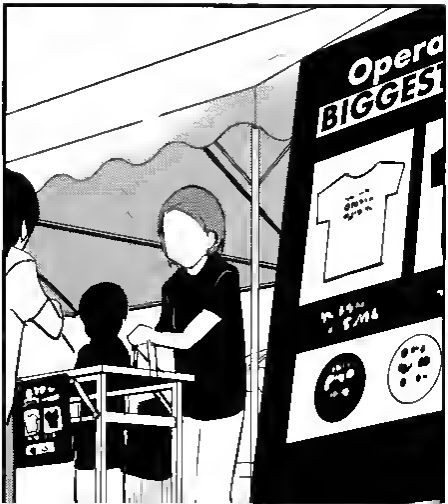
~10ロード~
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
I'VE COME THIS FAR SINCE THE SCANDAL.
nom

I'M WITH YOU
THANKS.
THERE YOU ARE!
WELL, TOO BAD! I DON'T WANNA SAY IT!
THANKING ME FOR, I WON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
BUT IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE
DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT
FOR WHAT?
.....

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE BACK LATER.
OH, ACTUALLY, I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW.
OKAY, SEEYA TOMORROW THEN.
COME ON, WE NEED TO GO!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU ABOUT THE MEETING WITH THE STAGE DIRECTORS?!
YEAH, YEAH I GOT IT.
TOMOR-ROW,
HUH?


THE NEXT DAY


30-31-40


Opera
BIGGEST

Buying tickets!

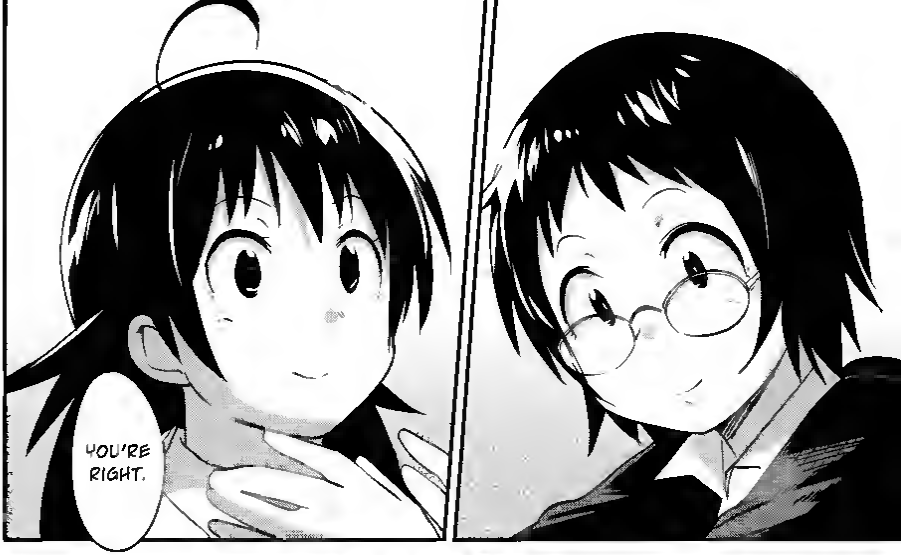
THEY'VE FINISHED SEATING THE AUDIENCE! ARE YOU READY, YUTAKA?

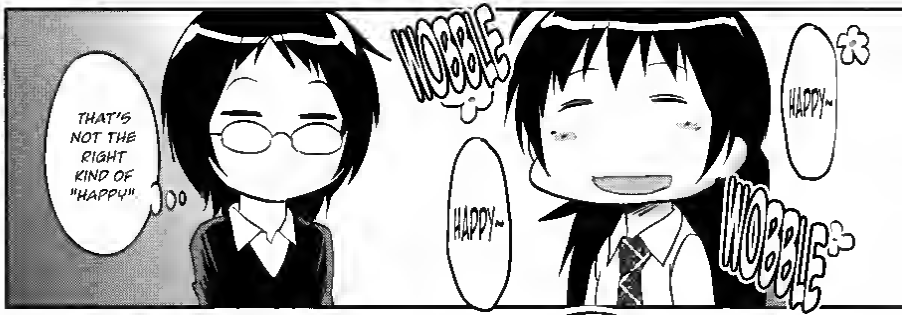
YEAH.
I SEE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN
.....
fidget
fidget
AAHH ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?!
DO YOU HAVE TISSUE PAPER?!
AH! YOU'RE NOT MY MOM!!
DID YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM?!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S NOT OKAY!!
WELL THERE'S 50,000 PEOPLE OUT THERE ..
THIS IS THE BIGGEST CONCERT YOU'VE EVER HAD.
..I GUESS.

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW OVER 200,000 PEOPLE
ARE LISTENING TO ME LIVE EVERY WEEK...
50,000...
IS NOTHING...
GULP

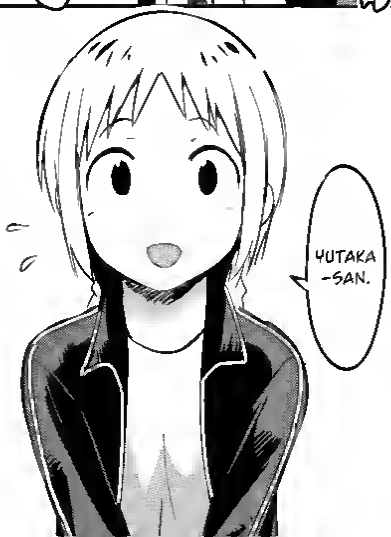
SHE IS
MAKING LIGHT OF 50,000 PEOPLE.

BUT
YUTAKA
WH-
WHAT'RE YOU DOING...?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO AND MURDER THOSE 50,000 PEOPLE
THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY ARE ON YOUR SIDE, YUTAKA.
TRY TO LOOK A LITTLE HAPPIER


YOU'RE RIGHT.


THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT KIND OF "HAPPY".
WOBBLE
HAPPY~
HAPPY~
WOBBLE

UM,
DO YOUR BEST OUT THERE!

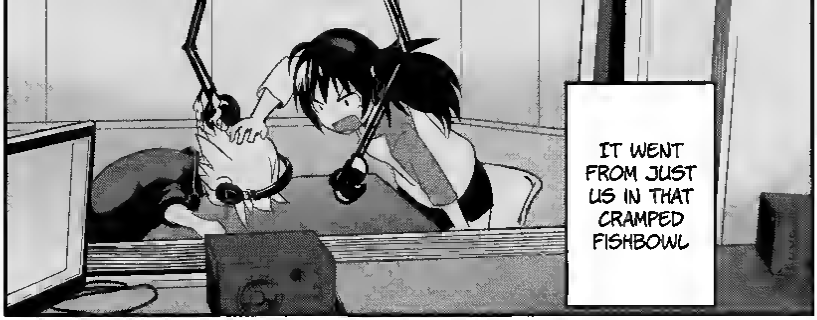

YUTAKA -SAN.

ALSO...
HERE.
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
I-IT'S A GOOD LUCK CHARM!
OKAY.
I NEED YOU ON STANDBY NOW.
THANKS.

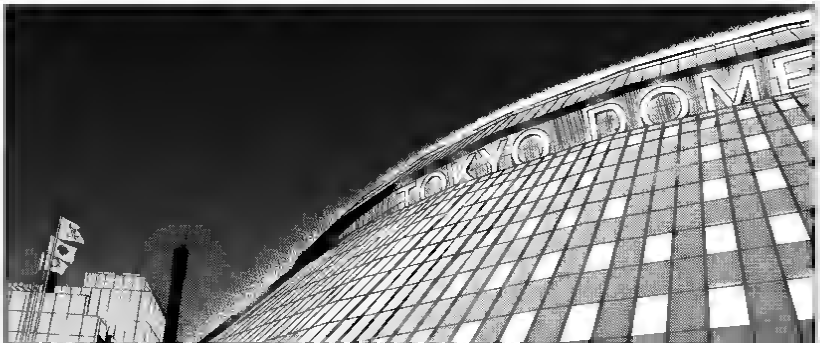
ALL RIGHT.
SEEYA.
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
Operation

ワァァ
CLATTER
CLATTER
ヘヘ
ヘヘ

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...


IT WENT FROM JUST US IN THAT CRAMPED FISHBOWL

TO YUTAKA-SAN SINGING TO A SEA OF 50,000 PEOPLE.


TOKYO DOME

Ace
We still have lots of emails and letters to go through from those who attended the dome concert.
Unfortunately, I won't be able to read them all here, but I have looked through every single of one of them~
For those who weren't able to make it, a DVD recording will be going on sale soon.
so I encourage you to get that!
DOESN'T NEED MY HELP ANYMORE.
SHE...

Let's see...
Here's another one of the letters we received...
I really enjoyed the dome concert!
But as a longtime fan of the show...
Have you ever gotten lonely when an artist you liked became popular?
I feel a bit lonely now that you seem so far away.

stare
.....
HUH?
AH...

COME ON...

Um...
Yeah, I've experienced that before.
What're you doing?! Stop spacing out! Can't you tell I'm asking you to make a joke?!
.....

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY JOKE ABOUT THIS?!
UGUU.

I'M REALLY LONELY TOO, YOU KNOW!!
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST TELL YOU THAT!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, YUTAKA-SAN!!
WH-
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
STOP IT, YOU TWO!!
T-THIS IS BAD.

YOU'RE SO STUPID, YUTAKA-SAN!!
LIKE YOU'RE ANY BETTER!!
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST SAID IT!
IF YOU HAD SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TELL ME,
YOU KNOW, I HAVE NOTICED THAT YOU'VE BEEN STRANGELY QUIET! BUT SO WHAT?
?
STUPID STUPID STUPID!!
NO, YOU'RE THE STUPID ONE!!
UGH, WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?!
わたわた
HURRY!!
PLAY A SONG!
すっ
...AH.
Door
HUH? WHAT?
YUTAKA-CHAN, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN
AND FIND A WAY TO RECOVER!!
Door

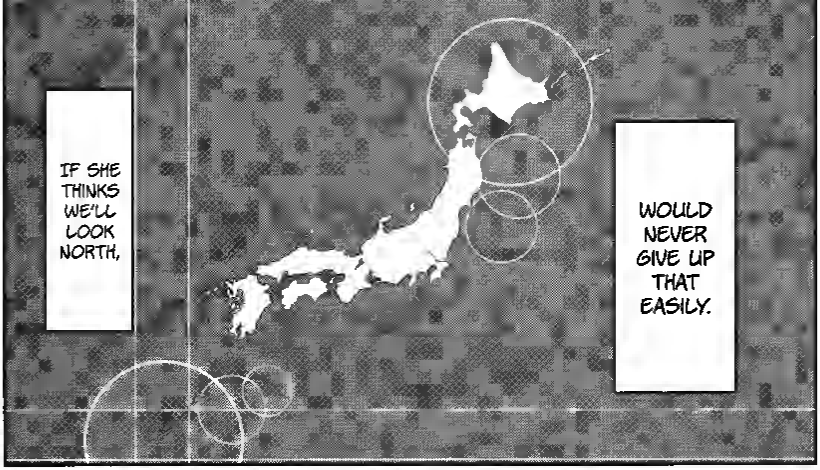
That was all a lie~
Door
JU~ST KIDDING~☆
とっ
HMPH!
YOU'RE BOTH IDIOTS...

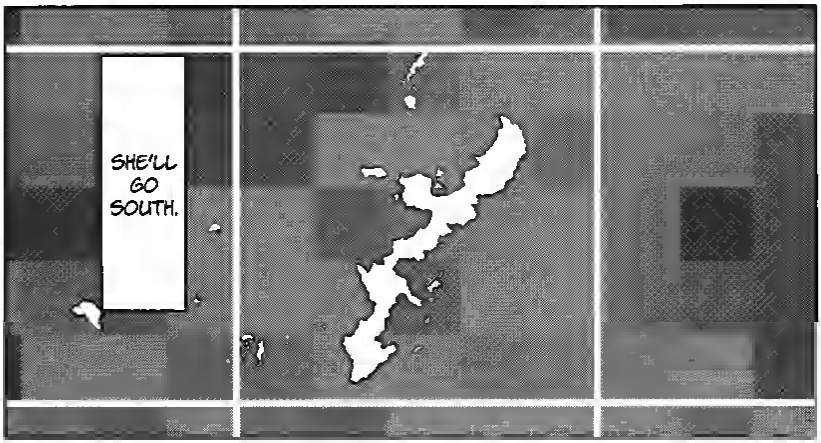
ドン
堀内ゆたか
ラジオで
替え玉!?
疑惑
人気番組は
代役だった
別人!?
堀内ゆたか
ラジオAce
Newspaper: POPULAR RADIO PROGRAM USED STAND-IN | RADIO ACE HORIUCHI YUTAK_ OPEC_TION AURORA | A E KE?!?!
Newspaper: HORIUCHI YUTAK ? IS SHE REALLY THE ONE BEHIND THE MIC?! ? URT'S SURF CE
ドン
おさがせアイドル
堀内ゆたか
またまたスキャンダル!?
人気アイドルのラジオ番組で代役?
前代未聞の放送事故
リスナーは「全く気づかなかった」
Text: Troublemaker idol, Horiuchi Yutaka, wrapped up in another scandal?!
Text: A popular idol radio show used a stand-in? | Unprecedented broadcasting incident | Couldn't even tell' say the listeners
RING RING
RING RING
You see...
W-Well.
RING RING
RING RING
RING RING
FIGURES THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

.....
YOU STUPID HIPPO.
TAKI -SAN!
EVERY SINGLE MEDIA OUTLET IS PRESSING US FOR INFORMATION.
THEY WANT TO KNOW IF WE'RE STILL GOING TO BROADCAST NEXT WEEK
WE WILL IF YUTAKA -CHAN WANTS TO.
R- REALLY?
WHAT WE DO NEXT IS ENTIRELY UP TO HER...
BUT
PROBLEM IS, YUTAKA -CHAN ISN'T ANYWHERE TO BE FOUND

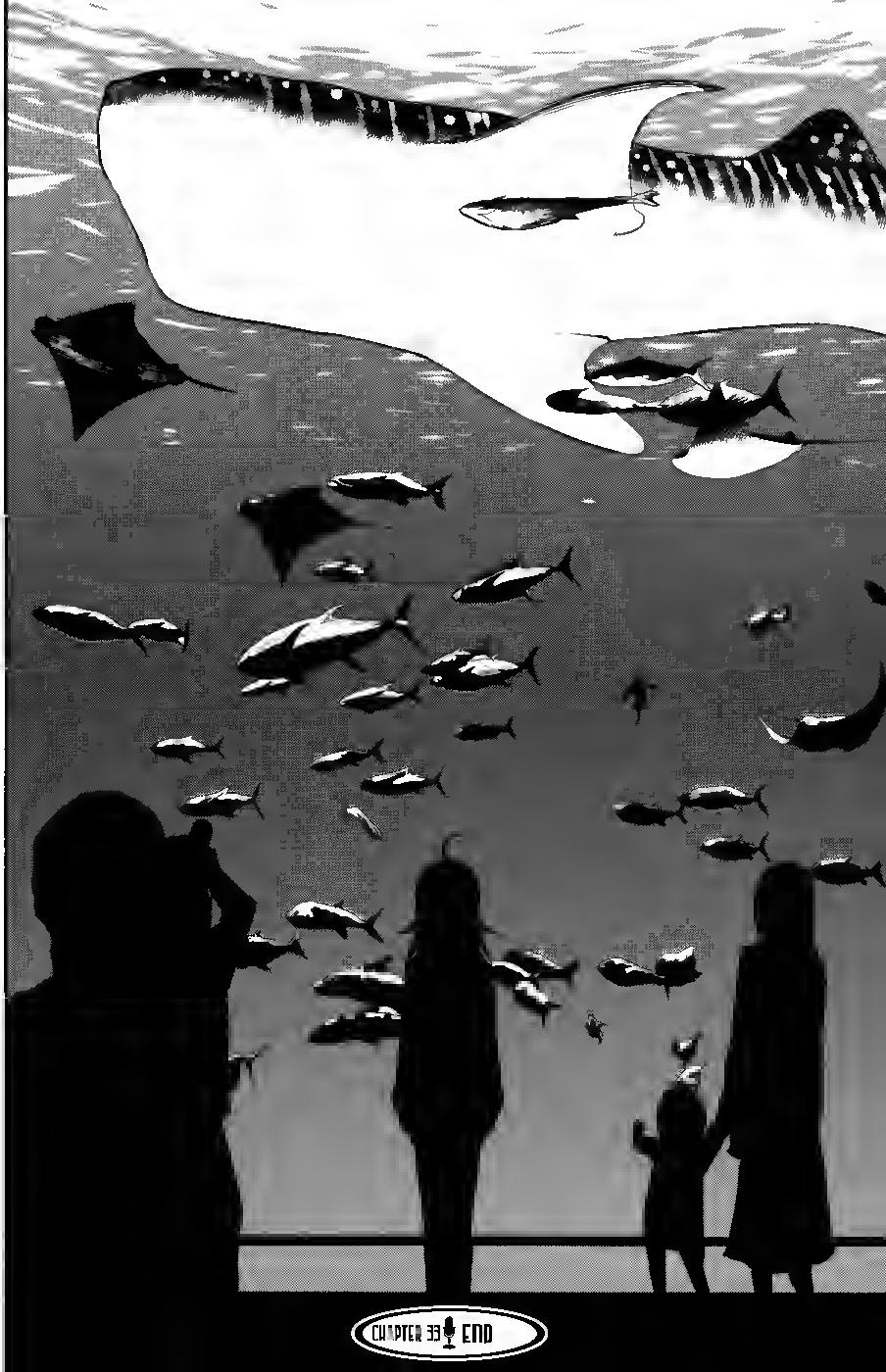
SIGH...
WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS RUN AWAY LIKE THIS?
I UNDERSTAND.
WE WILL BE MAKING AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THAT ISSUE.

YUTAKA-SAN...
WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM HER FAMILY...
WHERE DO YOU THINK SHE WENT?
MAYBE HER HOMETOWN?


IF SHE THINKS WE'LL LOOK NORTH,
WOULD NEVER GIVE UP THAT EASILY.


SHE'LL GO SOUTH.

弥勒寺


CHAPTER 33 END

YOU JUST CAN'T HELP MAKING A MESS OF THINGS, HUH?

HAVE YOU CONTACTED YUTAKA-CHAN YET?!

YUTAKA... PLEASE... ANSWER THE PHONE...

CHAPTER 34 OPERATION AURORA
.....

Yutaka Hori
CHAPTER 34
OPERATION AURORA

沖縄美ら海水族館
OKINAWA CHURAUMI AQUARIUM
CALIFORNIA
19

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, YUTAKA-SAN!!
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY JOKE ABOUT THIS?!
MAYBE SO...
NO...
YOU'RE RIGHT...

IS THAT ...?
!

ぬっ
!
DO YOU ENJOY AQUARIUMS?
DEEP- ER, CAPTAIN HARRIS?!
HAHA, IT FEELS STRANGE HEARING YOU CALL ME BY THAT NAME
BUT I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER YOU PREFER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M ON VACATION RIGHT NOW
NORMALLY I'D BE AT THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN, BUT I'D RATHER LISTEN TO YOUR SHOW HERE IN OKINAWA

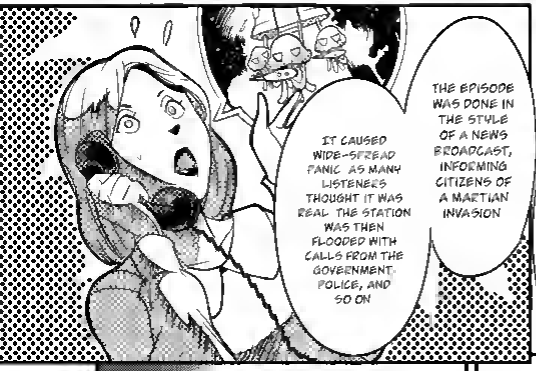
CAN'T SAY I WAS EXPECTING TO MEET ONE OF MY LISTENERS HERE
IS IT REALLY THAT SURPRISING?
YOU'RE LIKELY TO MEET ONE OF YOUR FANS ANYWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY.
.....

THE WHALE SHARK, KING OF THE FISH.
AS LARGE AS THIS TANK IS,
IT'S STILL FAR TOO SMALL FOR HIM.
CALIFORNIA
19

I'VE SPENT MUCH OF MY LIFE ON A SUB,
BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER...
WHY DO I MAKE MYSELF SIT IN A CRAMPED SPACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA FOR MONTHS ON END?
AND THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE...
I'M IN THE SEA.
WHEN I'M IN THE SEA, I CAN GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.
THE SEA TAKES EACH AND EVERY THING IN IT, AND MAKES IT ONE.

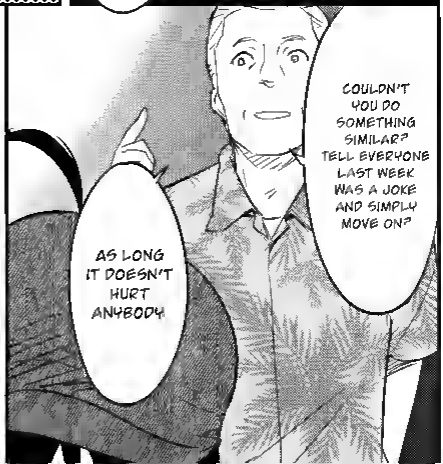
BUT THESE AREN'T THOUGHTS A SOLDIER SUCH AS MYSELF SHOULD BE ENTERTAINING
DO YOU MIND ME ASKING WHY YOU'RE 1,600KM AWAY FROM TOKYO?
I KNOW YOUR BROADCAST IS TODAY, BUT
...
I MUST SAY, YOU SURE ARE THE TALK OF THE TOWN THESE DAYS

DO YOU KNOW OF ORSON WELLES?
NO.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN "THE THIRD MAN" OR "CITIZEN KANE"?
I'VE HEARD THE NAMES BEFORE
WELL, HE STARRED IN THOSE MOVIES.


THE EPISODE WAS DONE IN THE STYLE OF A NEWS BROADCAST, INFORMING CITIZENS OF A MARTIAN INVASION
IT CAUSED WIDE-SPREAD PANIC. AS MANY LISTENERS THOUGHT IT WAS REAL. THE STATION WAS THEN FLOODED WITH CALLS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, POLICE, AND SO ON

NOT ONLY WAS HE A GOOD ACTOR, BUT AN INCREDIBLY TALENTED DIRECTOR
IN 1938, HE AIRED THE INFAMOUS "THE WAR OF THE WORDS" ON HIS RADIO DRAMA

OUR SCRIPT WRITER WOULD HAVE TO BE INSANE TO WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HAHA, I SUPPOSE SO.


COULDN'T YOU DO SOMETHING SIMILAR? TELL EVERYONE LAST WEEK WAS A JOKE AND SIMPLY MOVE ON?
AS LONG IT DOESN'T HURT ANYBODY

UNLIKE ORSON'S SHOW, MY PROBLEM IS REAL
BE-SIDES,
THAT WASN'T WHY I RAN AWAY...
Ace
I SPENT THE FOL-LOWING WEEK
HIDING FROM THE MEDIA.

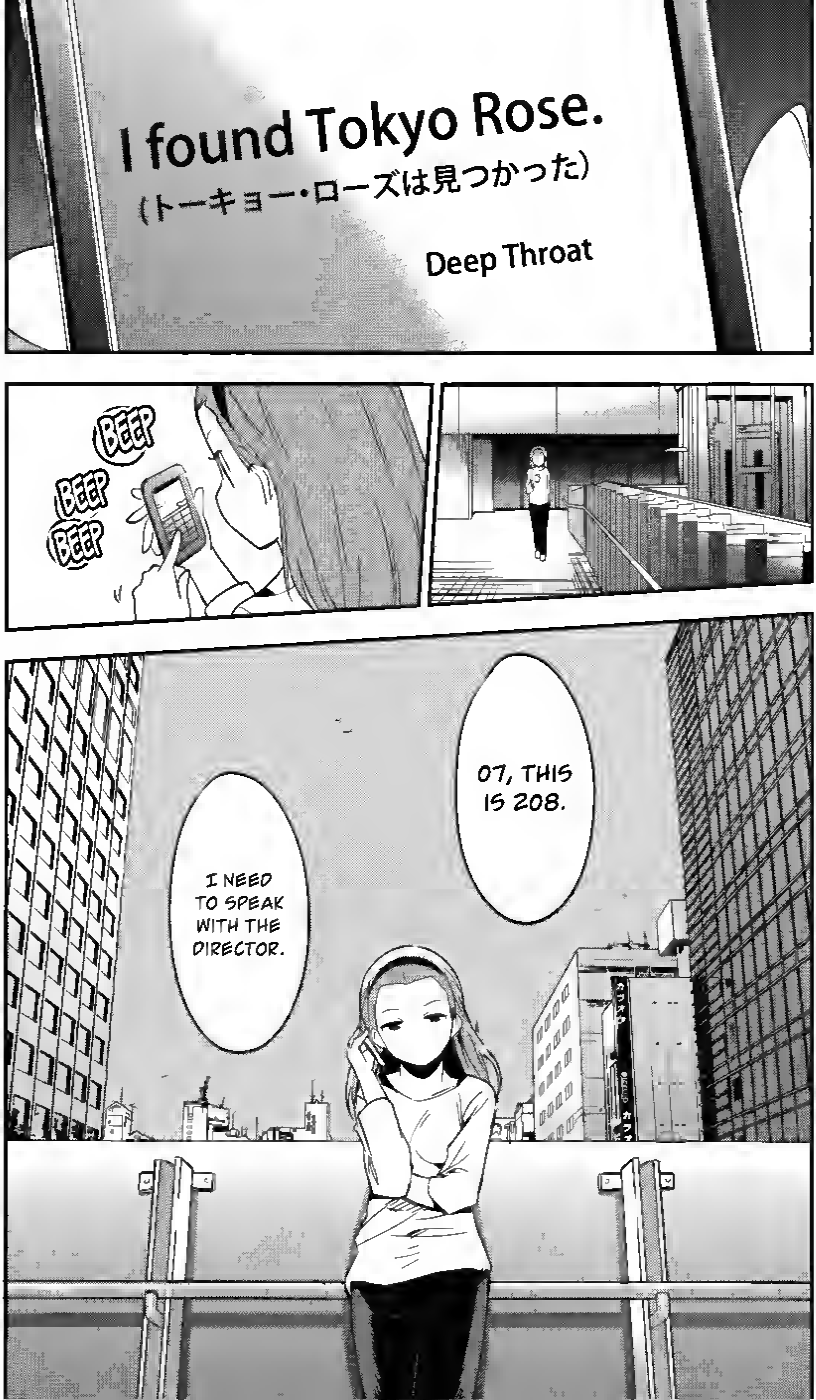
I WONDER IF THIS IS HOW YUTAKA-SAN FELT BACK THEN...
WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THE BROADCAST AS PLANNED
BUT...
THE PROGRAM'S SECRET IS OUT!
I DON'T THINK THROWING HER TO THE WOLVES IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
OTSUKA -SAN AGREED TO IT
BUT AT THIS POINT, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT SHE ISN'T GOING TO SHOW UP?
SHE'LL COME.

SHE MIGHT RUN AWAY,
BUT SHE'D NEVER LEAVE SOMETHING UNFINISHED

SHE WILL COME.
JUST LIKE BEFORE.

BUT
WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T?
WE'D JUST BE ASKING FOR IT IF WE ACTUALLY MADE HARUMI-CHAN STAND IN FOR HER...
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

WE DO WHAT WE CAN.
SO THIS IS RADIO ACE!
WORST CASE SCENARIO, I'VE GOT A BACKUP PROGRAM LINED UP.
LOOKS REAL NICE~
WELL THEN WE SHOULD JUST CANCEL YUTAKA'S SHOW, AND~
DON'T FORGET THAT WE'RE THE ONES WHO FORCED THEM TO DO ALL THESE RIDICULOUS THINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
SO WHY DON'T WE BELIEVE IN THEM FOR ONCE?
LET THEM DO IT THEIR OWN WAY.
.....


I found Tokyo Rose.
(トーキョー・ローズは見つかった)
Deep Throat
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
07, THIS IS 208.
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH THE DIRECTOR.

I SEE.
SO THAT GIRL WHO HAS THE SAME VOICE AS YOU... NOT ONLY HELPED YOU WITH THE RADIO PROGRAM,
BUT SUPPORTED YOU IN MANY WAYS AFTER THE SCANDAL.

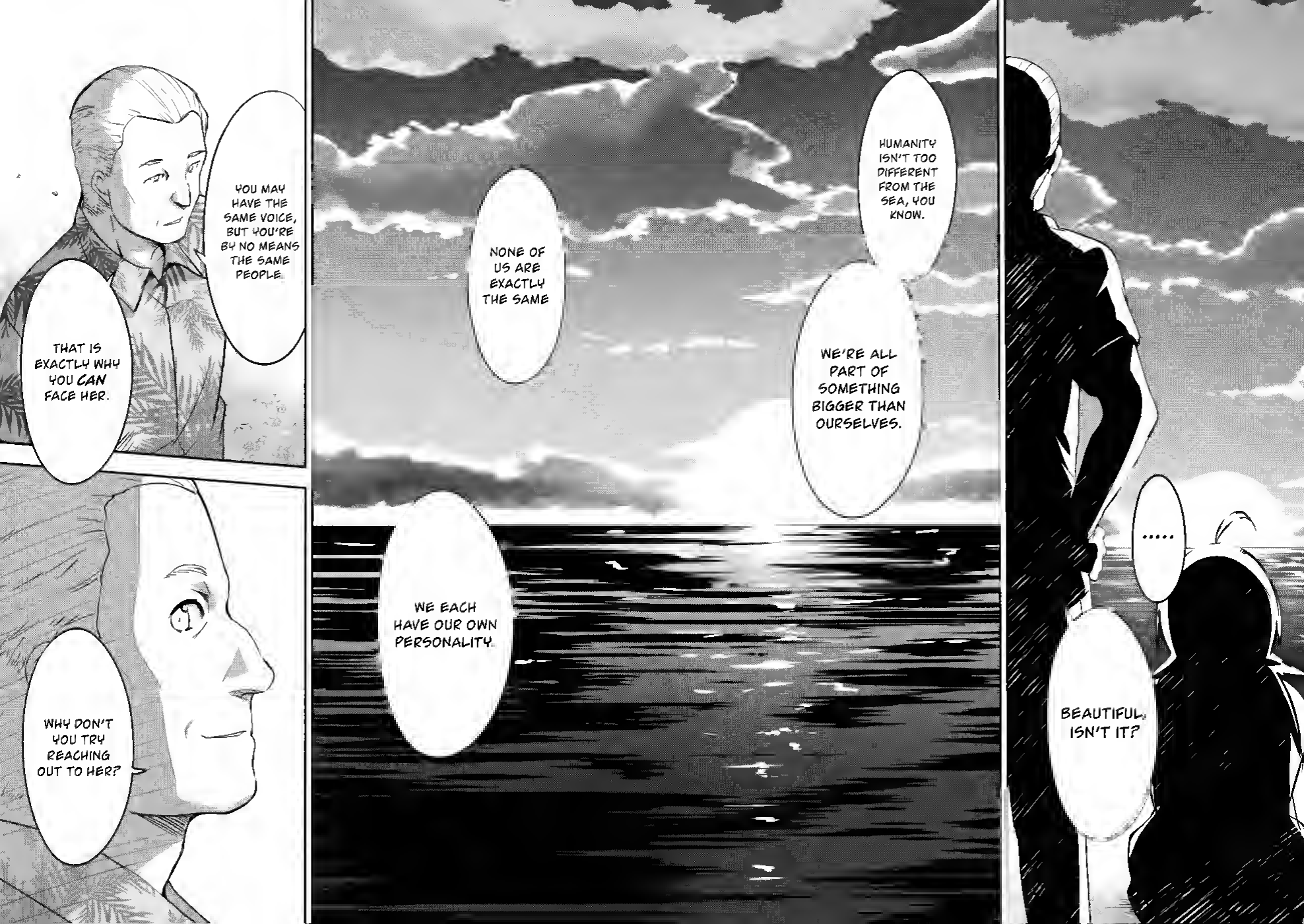
ドサ
SHE WAS MY ONLY FRIEND,
BUT I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD HER.
CALIFORNIA
WHEN I REALIZED THAT, I JUST COULDN'T FACE HER ANYMORE.
AND IT FRUSTRATED ME HOW PATHETIC...
AND WEAK I WAS...
SO I RAN...

SO,
DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW HAVING CONSULTED WITH THE FISH?
I SEE...
NOPE.
AH YES, THEY MAY BE BEAUTIFUL, BUT THEY DON'T TALK MUCH.
THEY SAY "GALLANTRY IS NECESSARY FOR NURTURING FRIENDSHIP JUST AS INNOCENCE IS VITAL TO CULTIVATING CHARACTER."
WHEN YOUR WORLD CHANGES, SO DO THE NATURES OF YOUR FRIENDSHIPS

T/N: A proverb from the classical Chinese text, Vegetable Root Discourse.

がば
BUT!!
CALIFORNIA
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOU'RE A TOP IDOL.
IF IT WASN'T FOR HER...
I'D STILL BE...
...
ぎゅ…

SHE NEVER ONCE LEFT MY SIDE...
THAT'S RIGHT...
WE CAN'T BE SEPARATED.
IN FACT, I'D SAY SHE'S A PART OF ME NOW.


YOU MAY HAVE THE SAME VOICE, BUT YOU'RE BY NO MEANS THE SAME PEOPLE.
THAT IS EXACTLY WHY YOU CAN FACE HER.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY REACHING OUT TO HER?
WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN PERSONALITY.
NONE OF US ARE EXACTLY THE SAME
HUMANITY ISN'T TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE SEA, YOU KNOW.
WE'RE ALL PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES.
.....
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

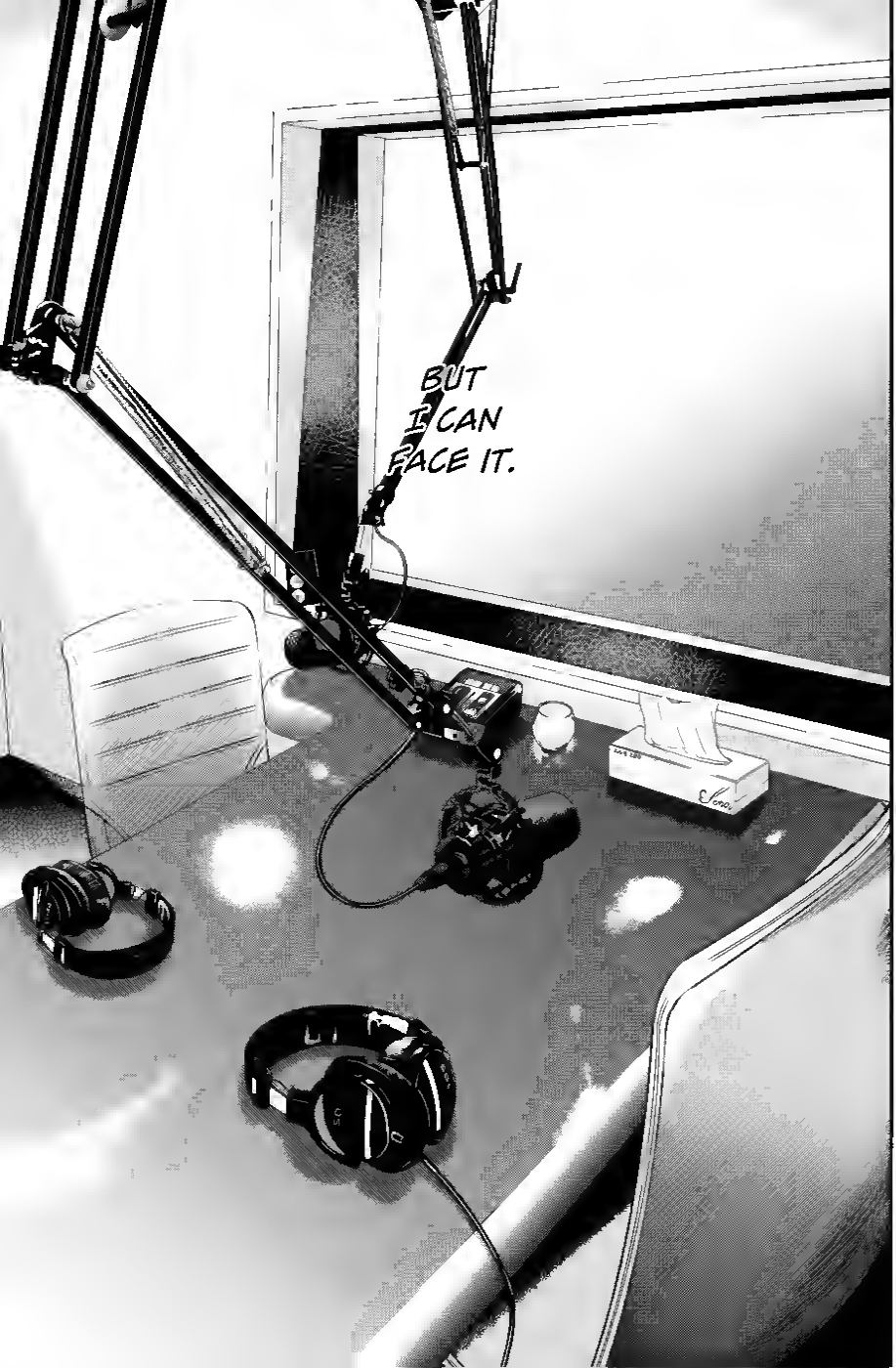
話す!!

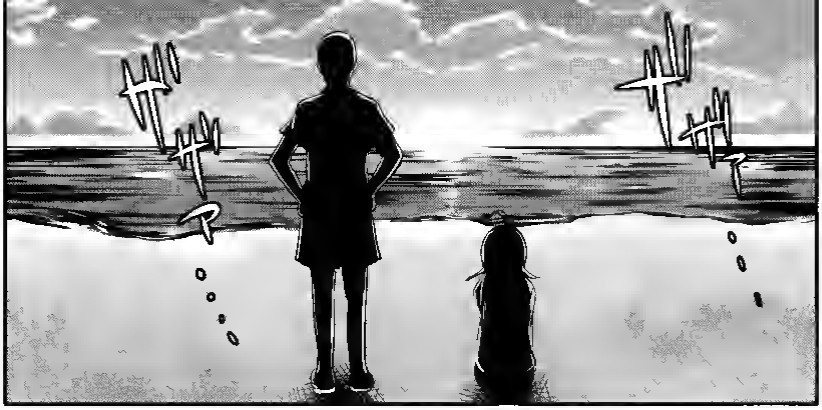
LIKE YOU DID WITH YOUR SISTER.

Text: Talk!!

I SEE.

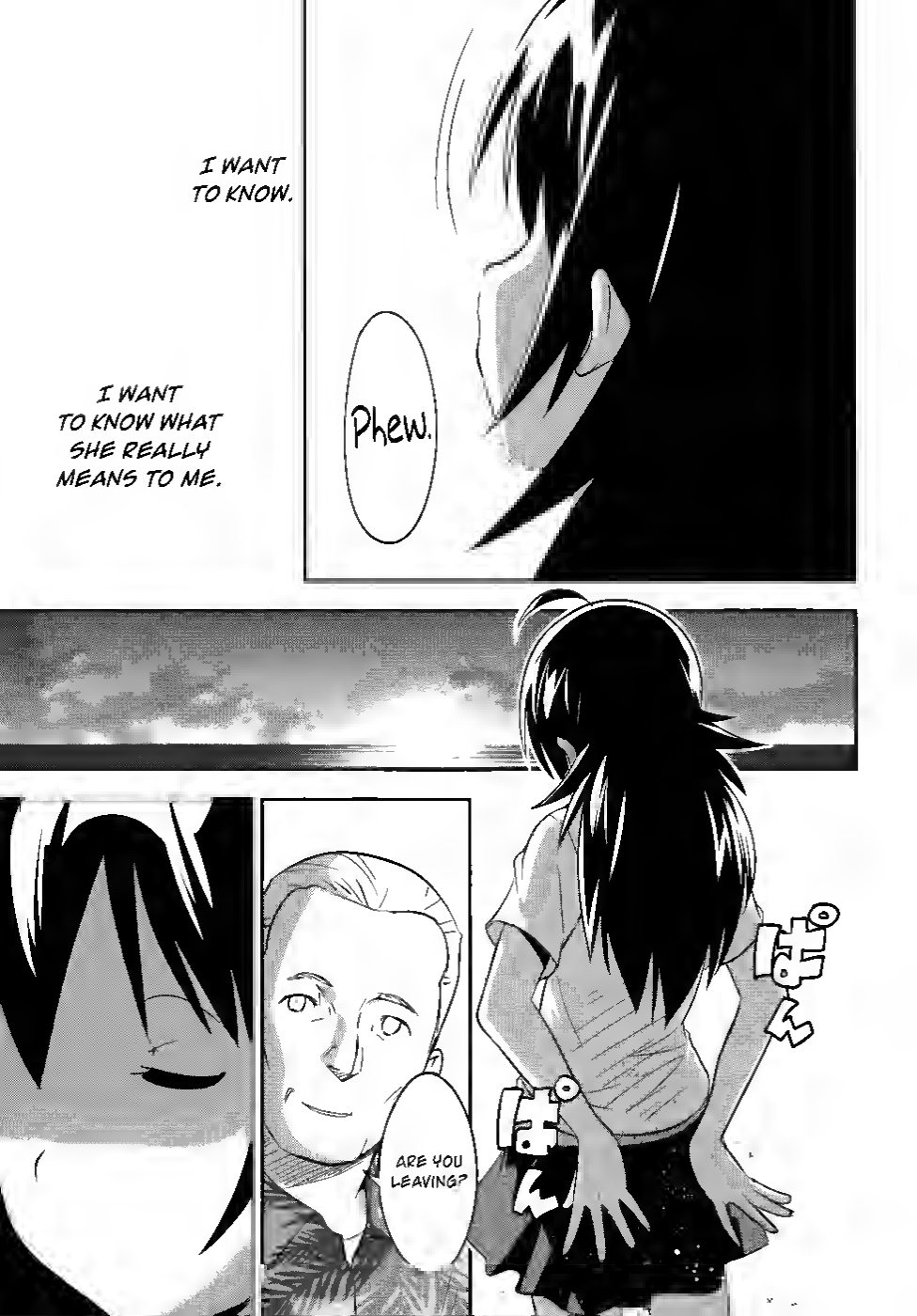
I CAN'T SEPARATE MYSELF FROM MY PERSONALITY.


BUT
I CAN
FACE IT.



Heh...

AHA HAHA HAHA
Hehehe
AHA HA HA HA HA HA
IT'S CRAZY.
I CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH AT HOW LITTLE I'VE CHANGED.
CALIFORNIA


I WANT TO KNOW.
Phew.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT SHE REALLY MEANS TO ME.
ぽん
ぽん
ARE YOU LEAVING?

YEP,
I AM.

NGYAA
ドドドド

YUTAKA -CHAN?!!
SPLASH
ROLL ROLL

HEY!
YOU CAPTAIN HARRIS? WHERE'S THE PRETTY LASS I'M SUPPOSED TO PICK UP?
...OVER THERE.
OH, YOU!
I'LL BE TAKING YOU TO THE BASE THIS EVENING. HOP IN!!
CALIFORNIA
49
ゴォォォォ

I GOT AN ORDER STRAIGHT FROM THE HIGHER-UPS OVER AT FAA
WHAT'S GOING ON, JOHN?
GENERAL DOUGLAS DAVIDSON
US AIR FORCE
COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE 18TH WING

WHO'S THE GUY WHO SAVED YOU FROM TURNING INTO BEEF JERKY IN THE MOJAVE DESERT?
C'MON DOUG, THERE'S NO NEED TO PRY
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

YOU MUST BE JOKING
U'SEE, HE OWES ME A FAVOR
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, HARRIS

I KNOW HE SEEMS A LITTLE GROUCHY, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A FAN OF YOURS
SE-RIOUS-LY?
whisper
whisper
AH, UH, YES
IT'S ME...
WE USE THIS PLANE FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.
THERE'S ONLY TWO OF THESE BAD BOYS IN THE WORLD WITH A DUAL COCKPIT
CALIFORNIA
19

キィィィ
<< "Red Dwarf" >>
<< Your mission is to deliver your passenger to Tokyo >>

ゴリ
<< YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE FULL THRUST >>
ゴオ
オオオ
<< FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION >>

≪ Operation Name: "Aurora"!! ≫
CHAPTER 34 END

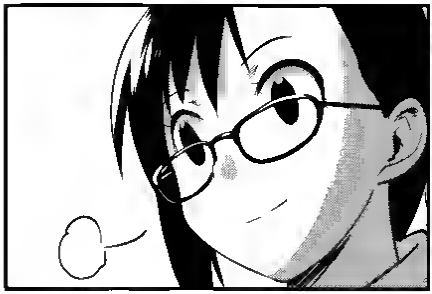
FINAL CHAPTER ! YES
#17
WE'VE GOT AN UNKNOWN AIRCRAFT HEADED TOWARDS THE KANTO AREA!
IT'LL BREACH TOKYO AIRSPACE IN 20!
A CALL FOR YOU, SIR FROM THE AMERICANS!
STEALTH? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME
THE AIRCRAFT IS SUSPECTED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH STEALTH CAPABILITIES, SIR
WHAT THE HELL ARE THE AWACS DOING, LETTING THE DAMN THING GET SO CLOSE?!
WHAT?
TRAINING EXERCISE?

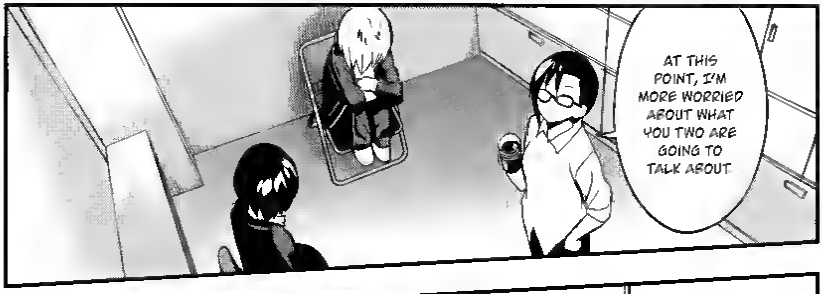
FINAL CHAPTER
YES

TICK
TOCK
TICK
sip
ONE MORE HOUR 'TIL SHOW TIME...
TOCK

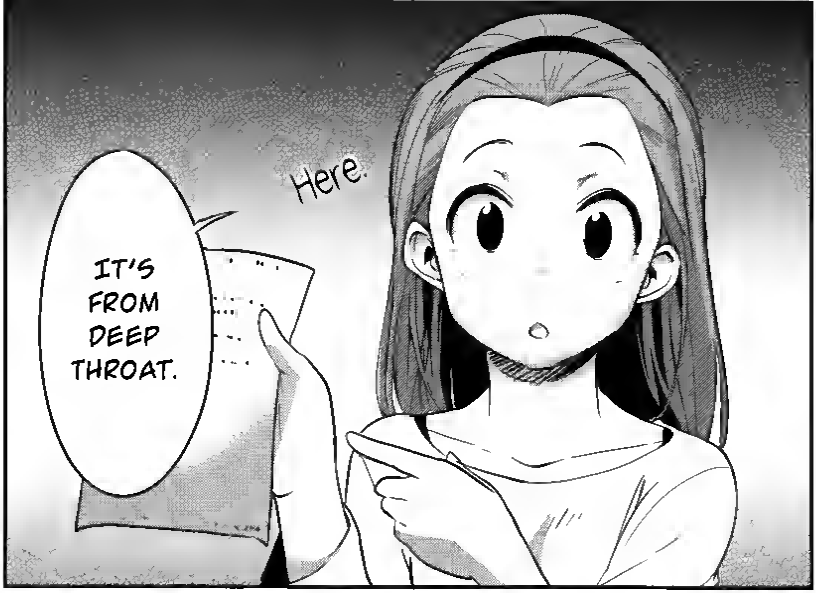
SHE WILL.

DO YOU THINK SHE'LL COME?




AT THIS POINT, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU TWO ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT.

WE JUST GOT A FAX!
TAKI -SAN!


Here.
IT'S FROM DEEP THROAT.

...WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
Who knows?

"MY PACKAGE SHOULD BE ARRIVING ANY MOMENT."
"BEST REGARDS."

CLATTER
.....
HARUMI -CHAN?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

SWING
HAA
HAA
HAA
キョロ

オオオオ
YUTAKA-SAN?!
AH! GO BACK! YOU WENT TOO FAR!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU IT WAS THE ONE AFTER TAMACHI?
SORRY, I DON'T KNOW THIS AREA!

HARUMI-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU...
!!
VRRRR

SORRY FOR THE WAIT!!
HORIUCHI YUTAKA, AT YOUR SERVICE!!!

WHAT KIND OF ENTRANCE IS THAT...
THAT'S GOTTA BE ILLEGAL
...
ゴォォ
ゴォォ
hop
hop hop
AH!
CARE-FUL!

OOF

YUTAKA-
SORRY
FOR
ABANDON-
ING YOU.
YUTAKA
-SAN...
LET'S
GO.
grab

DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER USING THE TOILET?
OF COURSE.

THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER PERSON WITH THE SAME VOICE AS ME TALKING ON THE SHOW
AS YOU ALL KNOW...
ON AIR

THAT IS A FACT.
LET'S LISTEN TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY.
SH.
YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY ?
TODAY, I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS.
I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE RUNNING AWAY.
.....

BUT I FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING I COULDN'T RUN AWAY FROM
AND SHE HELPED ME REALIZE THAT.
FROM WORK,
FROM HOME,
FROM MYSELF.
...SHE'S SITTING IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE RESPOND WITH EITHER A "YES" OR A "NO."
.....

ARE YOU HORIUCHI YUTAKA?
...NO.

DO YOU WANT TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY?
NO.

DO YOU ENJOY TALKING ON THE RADIO?
.....
YES.

!
DO YOU THINK HORIUCHI YUTAKA LIKES YOU?
YES.
CALIFORNIA

IS HORIUCHI YUTAKA GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE?
YES.
ARE YOU VERY IMPORTANT TO HER?
YES.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE REASON THE PROGRAM HAS MADE IT THIS FAR?
YES.
YUTAKA -SAN...

BONK
DO YOU HAVE TO PEE?
Y-YES.

BUT... BEFORE THAT,

WAS IT FUN? BEING WITH ME?
YES.
WILL WE BE FRIENDS FOREVER?

THE AURORA IS NO MORE.

BUT THEIR UNBREAKABLE BOND, THE PERSONALITY THEY'VE CREATED TOGETHER, WILL LIVE ON.

THANKS.
THIS WAS THE FINAL BROADCAST OF "HORIUCHI YUTAKA OPERATION AURORA."
ON AIR

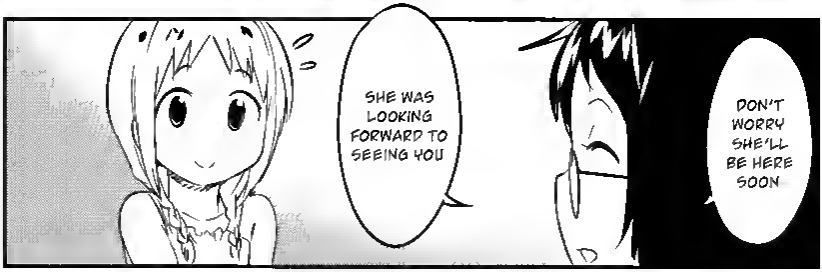
AS YUTAKA-SAN ONCE AGAIN FOUND HERSELF IN THE MIDST OF A SCANDAL,
SHE ANNOUNCED THAT SHE WOULD GO TO AMERICA TO STUDY ENTERTAINMENT, AND OFF SHE WENT.

DING DONG~
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE THEN.

I FINALLY MADE A NAME FOR MYSELF IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS, THOUGH IT'S A SMALL ONE.
SOMEHOW, MY LAST RESORT JOKE, "LAKE TITICACA," GAINED A MODEST SIZED FOLLOWING AFTER I PERFORMED IT ON A LATE-NIGHT COMEDY SHOW.
Coming!
AS FOR MYSELF...

OTSUKA -SAN!
WE MET AT THE TRAIN STATION, SO WE WALKED HERE TOGETHER
KISARAGI -SAN!
YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO TAKE OFF IN THIS INDUSTRY...
That hurts.
I MISSED YOU FUMIYO~N!!
FWIP FWIP
Look who's talking, you haven't changed a bit! You're so cute~
I SEE GETTING MARRIED HASN'T CHANGED YOUR BUBBLY PERSONALITY.

YUTAKA ISN'T HERE YET.
I CAME BACK TO JAPAN EARLY TO GET READY FOR OUR NEW GIG.


DON'T WORRY SHE'LL BE HERE SOON.
SHE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

HOW IS EVERYONE AT ACE DOING?

SAME AS USUAL.
AWAA~
DO YOU HAVE A RADIO?
THOSE OF Y'ALL WHO READ THE POSTCARD WILL BE GETTIN' SOME PRESENTS FROM OUR SPONSOR, KADOYAMA SHOTEN.
Ace
I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN WE'RE STILL WITHIN BROADCASTING DISTANCE
THEIR PROGRAM IS AIRING RIGHT NOW

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ガリ
THERE'S NO PRESENT!!
YER KIDDIN' ME! WHY DON'T YA JUST GO BUY 'EM NOW?
YEAH!
THEN WE CAN SHOW HOW GENEROUS THE GREAT KADOYAMA IS.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED THE SCRIPT?!
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE ALMOST DONE WITH IT?!
KUSAKA-CHAN ISN'T HERE TODAY, SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FINISH IT YOURSELF!! IF YOU'RE GONNA CALL YOURSELF A WRITER, YOU'D BEST FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!!

SIGH
PI
IF YOU DON'T FINISH IT BY OUR MEETING AT 6PM, I'M GONNA STRANGLE YOU!!
I'LL TRY TO FINISH IT IN 30 MINUTES
HARUMI -CHAN FEELS SO FAR AWAY NOW THAT
SHE'S ON TV
AND DOESN'T WORK AT ACE ANYMORE
芸能ナビ
I SHOULD INVITE HER TO A MOVIE OR SOMETHING...

SUZU-GAMORI-KUN...
I BELIEVE IN YOU!
I KNOW YOU CAN HIT IT!!
CUT!
OKAY.
LET'S TAKE A BREAK

C'MON, STEP IT UP PEOPLE.
IF I WAS THE DIRECTOR, I'D SWITCH OUT MY CLEANUP HITTER IMMEDIATELY IF HE COULDN'T HIT PITCHES THAT SLOW
WELL, IT IS A MOVIE...

rustle rustle
SHE'LL BE BACK SOON...
FAN CLUB
0000002
...
HORIUCHI YUTAKA
FAN CLUB
0.0000002
I WONDER WHO HER
NUMBER ONE FAN IS?

RING RING
はっ
GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, COLONEL HARRIS.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT INFORMATION?
YOU SUB-MARINERS... I SEE MOVING UP IN RANK HASN'T DULLED YOUR HEARING ANY.
.....
I'D ADVISE YOU KEEP THAT HEARING IN CHECK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND YOURSELF ON A LIST
HEH... I SEE.
GETTING THE NSA INVOLVED MAKES EVERY-THING MORE DIFFICULT ANYWAY
BUT DON'T WORRY AS HER NO 1 FAN, MY INTENTIONS ARE PURE
EMPLOYEE ID# 213980-x0
STATUS CIA FIELD AGENT
JODIE TAKUMI MATSUOKA
SECURITY CLEARANCE LEVEL 5
No.0000001
YES, IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE BEEN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES,
I KNOW, THE FIGHTER JET WAS A BIT TOO EXTREME. THIS TIME, IT'S A TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

I HAVE A CLEAR LINE-OF-SIGHT TO OTARU
ARE YOU READY, MS. SUPER IDOL?
OPEN THE CARGO RAMP!
ゴゴゴゴ
TRIP

AMC
ポー
AH

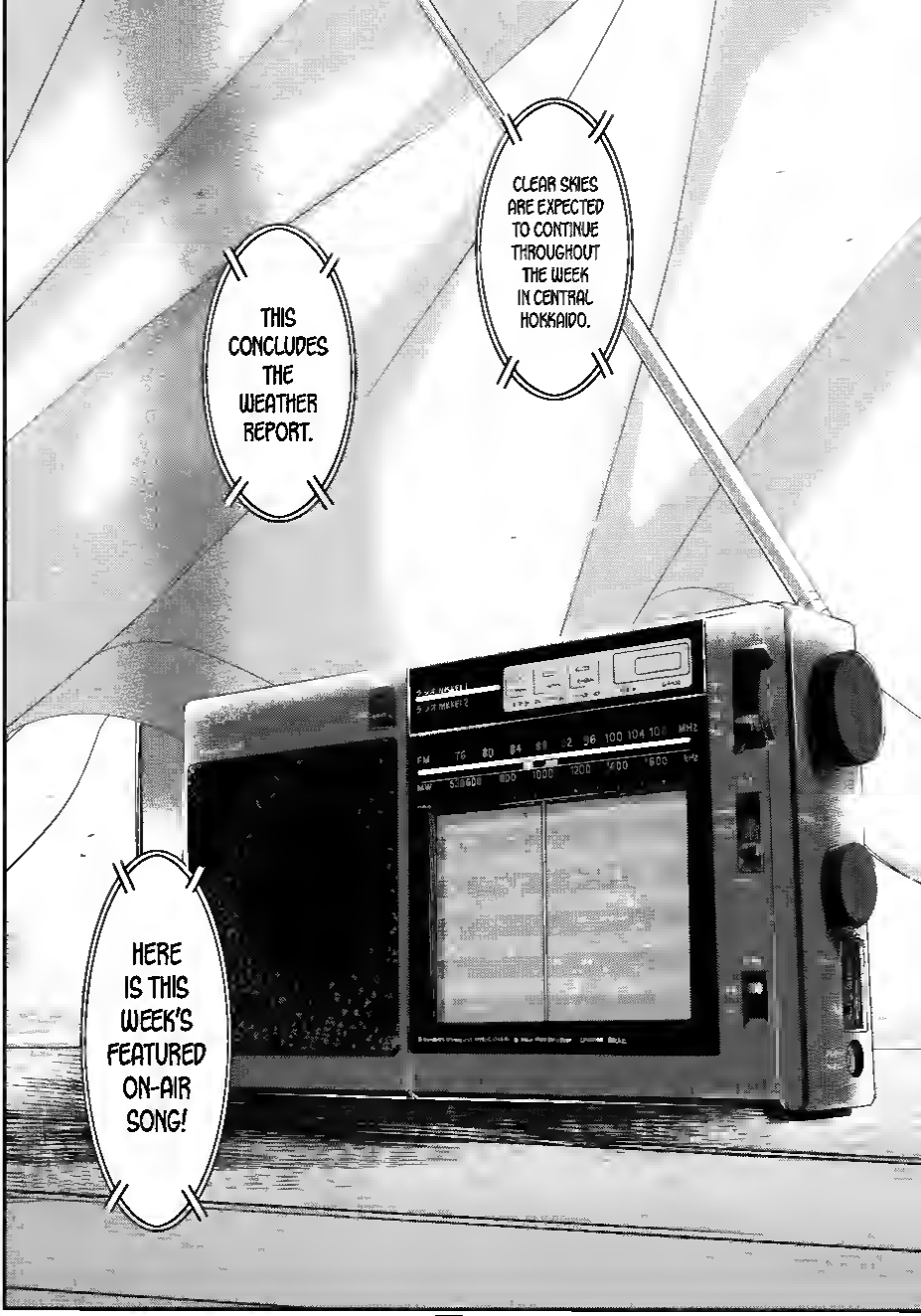
Now, on to the weather report...
I'M GOING TO SEE HOSHIKAWA-SAN THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
WE'RE PLANNING ON STARTING FROM SCRATCH HERE IN JAPAN.
Sorry...
HEHE.
SHE'S EITHER RISING OR FALLING
ALWAYS ONE EXTREME OR THE OTHER
BUT SHE'LL
BE OKAY.

SPLAT
ROLL ROLL ROLL
GONK
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT?
AH!!
NOW IT'S IN THE GARDEN!
DID SOMETHING FALL ON THE ROOF?
OW...
SSZZZZ ZRRRR
トゥリロ

I MES-SED UP AGAIN
THOUGH I WAS RIGHT ON TARGET
YUTAKA -SAN!!

HARUMI!
!

HEHE...
I'M HOME.
ZZZZ SSZ
ZZZ
ORT... AND...IT...


CLEAR SKIES ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IN CENTRAL HOKKAIDO.
THIS CONCLUDES THE WEATHER REPORT.
HERE IS THIS WEEK'S FEATURED ON-AIR SONG!

Afterword
BROADCAST ROOM ⑦
BROADCAST ROOM!! YAY!!!
Hello, welcome to our final...
O/A to an end.
Thanks for sticking with us.
sweep sweep
And with that, this brings

At first, the story was intended to be one chapter long— sort of like a oneshot
we ended up taking a lot of detours.
Yutaka's downfall and eventual comeback was the focal point of the story, but...
We've got a lot to cover, but due to the lack of space, we'll have to go through everything quickly

WHAT?!!!!
In fact, it was only after chapter 1 released that he came up with Yutaka's downfall.
But because Wataru spent so much time on chapter 1, he didn't put any thought into anything else until after it was serialized.

It's like I was the dirt beneath her feet...
Like during N:-1...
Yet, he was able to make it this far by connecting the story bit by bit. There were a lot of indigestion jokes, though
Oh, I almost forgot about Kusaka-san!

He worked super hard on that first chapter, so he figured it'd be pretty funny...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
People call that an opening one-liner, you know.

But, it all just seemed a little too over-the-top, so he gave up on that
Kusaka was supposed to reveal herself as a double agent working for the terrorists.
Feeble
and decided to just keep the CIA part
It was about a crisis unfolding in the studio where...
TERRORISTS SHOW UP DURING THE BROADCAST AND HOLD EVERYONE HOSTAGE?! Or something to that effect
There was actually a chapter about her that got thrown out.
After that foreshadowing at the end of volume 1, we finally learn that she's a CIA agent.
Light of the fireflies*~
Oops.
Why do you like to portray America as so underhanded?
whose information is supposedly still being controlled by the American army
He borrowed this idea from an urban legend of a famous radio station
*This song, Hotaru no Hikari, is often played to signify the end of something (e.g. store closing)
And with that—
EXE-EXE!!
And Nagisa!
Shiho-chan,
Your hosts were Mharu,
We hope to see you again, perhaps in another manga
It is with much reluctance that we part ways.
Looks like our time is up.

Those who helped me

Sunabe Tooru, Sunabe Osamu

Editor

Kimura Kazunori